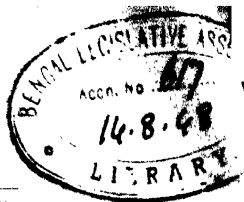


Vol. LXXII—No. 2



Assembly Proceedings
Official Report
Bengal Legislative Assembly
First Session, 1947

The 1st, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th,
18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, .
28th, 29th and 31st March, 1947.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency SIR FREDERICK BURROWS, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

- (1) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department and of the Home Department except the Jails Branch thereof.
- (2) The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI, Minister in charge of the Finance Department and of the Department of Health and Local Self Government.
- (3) The Hon'ble Mr. SAHYED MUZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN, Minister in charge of the Education Department.
- (4) The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN, Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.
- (5) The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL GOFAR, Minister in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.
- (6) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL FAZAL MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN, Minister in charge of the Department of Co-operation, Credit and Relief.
- (7) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, Minister in charge of the Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries.
- (8) The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA, C.I.E., M.B.E., Minister in charge of the Department of Irrigation and Waterways.
- (9) The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY, Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.
- (10) The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN, Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department and the Jails Branch thereof.
- (11) The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BAROHI, Minister in charge of the Department of Works and Buildings.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

TOFAZZAL ALI, Esq., Advocate.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFAZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

AJITA RANJAN MUKHERJEA, Esq., M.Sc., B.L.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the First Session.

Volume LXXII—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 1st March, 1947, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. TARAZZAL ALI) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 191 Members.

Ruling on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we take up the questions, I should like to announce my ruling on the point raised by some honourable members as to whether Dr. Malik can withdraw his question.

MR. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, may I bring a fresh point on the matter?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. A point of order has been raised by some honourable members of this House on the subject of Dr. Malik's question No. Starred 122. The questions are no doubt an important feature of our Parliamentary procedure, as they are inquiries addressed to Ministers or to members concerned with the business of the House. These questions are framed merely to elicit information. Under rule 24 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules a member who wishes to ask a question in order to receive an answer, signifies his intention of doing so by giving a notice. The practice followed in the House of Commons is that even after giving notice of a question a member of the Parliament has got to declare the number of the question tabled by him. It is only after this declaration by the honourable member concerned that the Minister gives the reply. But in this House that procedure is not followed. In spite of the fact that no member stands up on the floor of the House, it is assumed that if the member does not send a request for withdrawal of the question he means to put the question. That is why the question is answered by the Government. A member in these circumstances has every right to withdraw his notice any time before the answer is delivered formally. The leave of the House is not required for such withdrawal. Where a matter requiring a decision of the Assembly is brought forward by means of a question put by the Speaker on a motion proposed by the Speaker himself or by another member, the question of leave of the House for withdrawal arises. Such questions cannot be simply withdrawn by its proposer. The English rule is that a duly proposed motion, when once before the House, is from that moment no longer the property of the mover but the property of the House. For the withdrawal of a motion the consent of the House is required.

Dr. Malik has signified his intention to withdraw the question and he has been permitted by me to do so, as the withdrawal, in my opinion, requires no leave of the House. This is also consistent with the practice prevailing in this House. In the year 1944 (*vide* page 531 of the Assembly Proceedings, Volume LXVIII), a similar permission was given to Mr. Dharendra Narayan Mukherjee, Chief Whip of the Congress Party

to withdraw his question after it had been printed in the Question List. The case of the Hon'ble Mr. Barori's question is different, as in that case no request for withdrawal was made to the Chair. So on this basis that question may be distinguished from the question now at issue.

In these circumstances, I do not find any ground for revising the order that I passed on the request for withdrawal of this question.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: Are we to understand, Sir, that the question stands expunged from the proceedings of the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will not find place in the proceedings.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I have a submission to make on this point—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I will not hear any submission on this point.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Supplementaries to starred question No. 123 (carried over from 27th February, 1947.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. Under rule 23 of the Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, it is provided that the first hour of every meeting shall be available for putting and answering questions. With all due respect I submit that you have taken sometime to give your important ruling. The proper time for giving the ruling should have been after the expiry of one hour so that the first hour, which is available for putting and answering questions, should have been utilised for that purpose. Now, Sir, either through inadvertence—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, will you kindly take your seat? I will give you my reply. I don't think there is any substance in the point of order raised by you. Supposing at the time when questions are being answered in the House, a point of order is raised and I give my ruling, and if, sometime is spent over the ruling, will you be entitled to ask for an extension of the question hour? This question was held over; it was not answered and had to be taken up today.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Controller—

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I want to raise a question of privilege in regard to this question which is the privilege of the members of this House—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, Mr. Sinha has put a supplementary question; let it be answered.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the conduct of the Subdivisional Controller was in contravention of the strict provisions of law?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It was considered to be so and therefore action has been taken against him and he has been removed.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, shall I wait till the question is finished?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, let it be finished.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is legal for an association to take delivery of stocks before getting a license and whether reference to the Director-General is a sufficient explanation to cover this illegal action?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Well, action was taken, because it was in contravention of the existing provisions, and therefore I think I have nothing to add.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: With reference to answers (i) and (ii), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what powers the District Magistrate authorised the Subdivisional Controller to exercise?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is not possible for me to give an answer off-hand. I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the composition of the Kharar Trading Association.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what legal action has been taken against the Subdivisional Controller?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have already said that he has been removed.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: With reference to answer (c)(i), namely, "Yes", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the actual system in vogue? Is any food material or any other controlled commodity ever allowed in the name of a food committee or through the dealers in the food committee to whom these permits of commodities are supplied?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: They are given to dealers.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by the word "removed", whether removed from service, or removed on promotion?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Removed from service.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any action has been taken against Kharar Trading Association for the alleged breach of law as stated in answer (f)?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: A case has already been started against them and it is now proceeding.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In the light of the answer of the Hon'ble Minister, as just now given, in relation to answer (c)(i), may I expect that he is prepared to change his answer "Yes. But after a reference to the Director-General, Enforcement, a license was issued to the firm soon afterwards" to question "Whether the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies at Ghatal, issued four bales of cloth to Kharar Trading Association, before they received the licence, instead of supplying to the Food Committee there"? Here his answer implies that food material is supplied to the Food Committees, whereas in the House he has replied that they are supplied to the dealers. So his answer in relation to (c)(i) is inconsistent.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sabur, this is not a question.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any Subdivisional Food Committee at Ghatal?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: There must be one, I believe.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: বানবীর বহীষদাশর অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি তাঁর উত্তরে (d—ii) তে এই কথা আছে “Low paid Government employees receive rations for themselves and their dependents not exceeding three” এবং তাৎপর্য বলেছেন “No such extra ration is supplied to Government officers having only three dependents”.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Yes.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: যদি তা পান তাহলে কি ঐ কতনের জন্য পান। না, তার যত খোঁজি খোঁজ আছে তাদের সকলের জন্য পান।

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: No; beyond those three.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Subdivisional Officer of Ghatal was ordered to take charge of that Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Because he was originally appointed as such.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKSH: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are no Subdivisional Food Committees in Murshidabad?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister that there is a Subdivisional Food Committee at Ghatal, will he be pleased to state why the entire quota of cloth was not placed at the disposal of that Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I think through some mistake.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has taken any action to ascertain as to who was responsible for this mistake?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have already stated that a case is proceeding.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Subdivisional Officer was given charge of the Supply Department instead of the Subdivisional Controller of Ghatal?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: If you want the names of the Subdivisional Controller and the Subdivisional Officer, I want notice.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the reason for transferring the power to the Subdivisional Officer, Ghatal, instead of to the Subdivisional Controller, Ghatal, who is specially appointed to take charge of supply?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I do not know if power has been transferred to the Subdivisional Officer of Ghatal.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what circumstances supply of cloth could have been made to an association that did not possess any licence?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: It arises, Sir, out of the question given by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot allow it.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: With reference to answer (f), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is making the enquiry referred to there?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: The Enforcement Branch. I have already said that.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether an officer has been appointed in place of the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Ghatal?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I rise on a point of privilege. With regard to a question which was allowed to be taken out by an honourable member, as we are mostly guided by the practice that obtains in the House of Commons, here is a case in point which I would like to present for your consideration. If a member declines to put a question and intimates to the Speaker that he does not intend to put a question standing in his name, the Speaker does not call upon the honourable member, but calls upon the next member whose name is on the paper, but if an honourable member objects that the question so omitted contains a reflection upon the character of anybody, it is competent for such other honourable member to ask any question which he thinks will place the matter in a proper light before the House, and Mr. Speaker does not object to the omitted question being put by the member complaining of the same. This was a case referred to in Volume 304, pages 437-39, 9th April, 1886. In this question the conduct and character of an officer, namely, S. Basu, is involved, and I have a question to ask in that matter and I believe I am entitled to ask the question even though the honourable member may have withdrawn his question. That is my submission.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That case is distinguishable from the present case. You are thinking of a contingency when a question really comes up before the House and is taken up, but in this case before the question could be taken up on the floor of the House, the honourable member sent a request to the Speaker for allowing him to withdraw his question. So your analogy does not apply to this case.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: A member declined to put a question which question really came up before the House. Because the member wanted to withdraw the question, so he declined to put it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Here the request for withdrawal came before the question came up before the House.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. According to the rules and convention of this House, a question is not put in the House simply by the member being present. A question is put even in the absence of the member in the House. As soon as notice of the question is given and the question has been admitted under the rules—and the Speaker's discretion about admitting questions is very clearly defined—that very moment the question has been put and admitted and after that it is for the department only to give an answer. But putting of the question has already taken place. I point this out, Sir, because I heard you to observe "before the honourable member had put the question". The putting of the question takes place after the notice has been given and the question has been admitted and the office actually intimates that the question had been admitted. The putting is over then and there. When the answer comes up, it is immaterial whether that particular member is present on the floor of the House or

not. If the putting is to take place on the floor of the House as you seem to suggest now, it will be impossible for any question to be answered in the absence of the member in this House. If the question has been admitted under the rules and if the question carries any reflection as suggested by my honourable friend Mr. Ghose—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not necessary for you to make a speech. I have decided the point. I think you followed what I said in the course of my ruling given just now. I have already said that until there is a request for withdrawal of the question it is presumed that the member does put the question whether he is present in the House or not. So your point is covered by the ruling given by me. So far as Mr. Ghose's point is concerned, that deserves some consideration, but for the purposes of a ruling I do not think it is necessary to consider it at the present moment. I will further look into the point of Mr. Ghose.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: My submission is that your ruling should not be supposed to have covered the point which I raised. Because if it did that, Sir, that will be taken as a precedent hereafter although this point has not been settled as yet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My ruling is supported by the precedents of this House that questions under similar circumstances have been allowed to be withdrawn.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: May I make a submission, Sir? When it is a question of privilege of members, if something wrong has been done in the earlier sessions—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not yet convinced that it is wrong. The case you cited is distinguishable from the present case. However I shall look into it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as soon as this question is over a point of privilege arises and I shall have to submit my point of privilege after these questions are over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose has already raised a point of privilege.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is not Mr. Ghose's point. I have got a fresh point of privilege arising out of what you stated. I submit, Sir, that the privileges of members as embodied under the rules cannot be ruled out by the Speaker's ruling.

Secretary of the Subdivisional Food Committee, Bagerhat.

*124. **Mr. RUP NARAYAN ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present Subdivisional Officer, Bagerhat, kept the Secretary of the Subdivisional Food Committee in office notwithstanding a vote of no confidence passed against the Secretary by the Subdivisional Food Committee?

MINISTER-in-charge of the DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SUPPLIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): No. It is not a fact that a vote of no confidence was passed by the Subdivisional Food Committee against the Secretary.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Secretary of this Subdivisional Food Committee, Bagerhat, was first appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I should like to have notice.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this Subdivisional Committee has been reconstituted after it was first constituted?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the said Secretary with one of his nominees was dealing in yarn meant for weavers for which no account has been submitted since 1944-45, worth about several crores of rupees?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in the light of the question, I have put just now whether he is going to take any steps to realise the exact account of yarn submitted by the Subdivisional Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is a request for action and I am not prepared to answer it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether he has made any enquiries into the complaint about the vote of no-confidence on the Secretary of the Bagerhat Food Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Yes; otherwise I could not have given a reply like that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: When was the enquiry made and who were the persons from whom statements were taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: For details, I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Since the Hon'ble Minister is not in a position to state when the enquiry took place, will he be pleased to state whether Government called for the proceedings of the meetings of the Food Committee of Bagerhat Subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government did not call for the copy of the proceedings of the Committee meetings of the Food Committee, Bagerhat?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Nothing to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether allegations of a criminal nature have been made against the Secretary of the Food Committee of Bagerhat Subdivision and in view of that Government considers it its duty to investigate into it as early a date as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: If definite complaints are made, certainly Government will enquire into them.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will take notice of the allegations contained in the statement made in the question put by an honourable member of this House, Mr. Sabur?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have already replied to the question that has been put.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the honourable member, Mr. Sabur, as a responsible member of the House making a statement which deserves enquiry and investigation?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I do.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he or his department has been able to get any official record of the returns of the yarn distributed during the years, 1944, 1945 and 1946?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether if any irregularity had occurred in the distribution of yarn for the weavers, he is prepared to take action on it?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Certainly.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: With reference to the answer "No" to the question whether a vote of no-confidence was passed, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any vote of no-confidence was tabled?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the weavers of Bagerhat subdivision have been complaining of non-receipt of yarn supply for them and that the yarn has been diverted into the black-market?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have received no such complaint.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether as a matter of fact the weavers are not receiving any yarn, and whether there is an allegation that yarn is being diverted into the black-market as testified by an honourable member?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have already answered that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplates making an enquiry into the amount of yarn allotted to the subdivision of Bagerhat and how it was distributed, and place on the table a full chart of the result of his investigation?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: If a definite complaint is made, I shall certainly enquire into the matter.

Quota of mill-made cloth for Malda district.

*125. **Mr. RAMHARI ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(i) what is the quota of mill-made cloth monthly or annually for the district of Malda, and

(ii) whether the entire quota of the mill-made cloth for the district of Malda has been distributed up to date?

(b) If the answer to (a) (ii) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) the reasons and facts why the entire quota has not been distributed; and

(ii) whether he is proposing taking any step in the matter; if so, why?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: (a) (i) Five hundred and seventeen bales monthly.

(ii) No. Supplies against quota are approximately two months in arrears.

(b) (i) Owing to civil and labour disturbances supplies against quota to districts in Bengal are approximately one month in arrears on an average. Between April and July despatches to Malda were in excess of monthly quotas resulting in an accumulation of stock which has prevented the district from accepting further supplies up to quota.

(ii) Despatches will be increased so far as the supply position and the capacity of the district to absorb further stocks permit.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether due to civil and labour disturbances which interfered with the supply of quotas there was shortage in production or the supply was restricted on account of any other factor?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: There was shortage of production as well as difficulty of despatch.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (a) (ii), if the reasons for the quotas being approximately two months in arrears were as stated in answer (b) (i)?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Yes

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to answer (b) (i), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the accumulation of stock which prevented the district from accepting further supplies meant that the population there are not absorbing the quota that is being sent there?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It means that, I believe.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the despatches will be sent to the district, regularly?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have already answered that in (b) (ii).

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for which two months the quota due are in arrears?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: That it is not possible for me to say off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from whom did he elicit the information that the quota due for two months are at present in arrears?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: From the departmental officers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he called for the names of the particular months for which the quota fell into arrears?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is not possible for me to say that off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons why the excess over the monthly quota was despatched to Malda?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Because in previous months there were short despatches, there were excess despatches afterwards.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Is that excess despatch or is that a despatch to make up the shortage of despatch made in previous months?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Previously there were short despatches and so there was an increase in despatches in subsequent months.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of Government to see that there is a surplus of cloth in Malda district?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I do not see how there can be any surplus, but at the time this question was sent, there was an accumulation of stock in the Malda district, and it was not possible for people there to absorb the quantity of cloth that had already been sent. It was not exactly a surplus.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In connection with the reply that the Hon'ble Minister has given in (b)(ii), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the absorbing capacity of Malda district has ever been assessed and, if the answer is in the negative, what is that capacity?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am sorry, I am not in a position to say that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the inability to absorb the cloth sent there amounted to cloth being in surplus in that district?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is a matter of opinion, I think.

Sale of condemned rice in Dacca district.

***128. Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that one Radha Raman Kundu of Dighalibazar under police-station Lohajong, Dacca, and some other rice dealers of that district, who directly get their rice from the Civil Supplies Department godowns sell discoloured rice sufficiently mixed with sand and dust; and

(ii) that rice once condemned for being used as fodder has been sold by the Civil Supplies Department in auction in different markets of the Dacca district for human consumption?

(b) If the answers to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: (a) (i) Neither the Department nor its officers in the Dacca district have received any such complaints.

(ii) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a member of this House produced the sample of rice supplied to the Controller of Civil Supplies and the District Magistrate of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether one member of this House along

with another honourable member, Mr. Munindra Nath Bhattacharjee and Mr. Bhagabat Talukdar, a local Congress leader, collected samples from the said shop?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have already said that I am not aware of that.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government will enquire into the matter as the matter is of a grave nature?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: If a definite complaint is made, it will certainly be enquired into.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will refresh his memory that an honourable member of this House, Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee, brought a sample in this House in the last session and showed the sample to him?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: No such sample had been handed over to me and I cannot remember it.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that an allegation of this nature was publicly made by the Opposition in the Assembly of the Bengal Congress in the Press as also in the food debate that took place in the last budget session?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Was the Hon'ble Minister present on the occasion of the last budget debate or did he enquire into the statements made in connection with his department?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It is impossible to remember it.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that, because rice was rotten as late as December last, rice supplied to the Government officers at Manikganj was not taken by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Opposition is entitled to draw this conclusion from his answer to (a)(i), that unless complaints are made by the public Government do not take any initiative in instituting enquiries through their Enforcement Branch, for instance?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: No.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any auction of any grade of rice was made at Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of privilege, Sir. I am not putting any question. From the nature of the answers given by the Hon'ble Minister, Civil Supplies,—and during the last budget session many speeches were made about the rectification of departmental defects—are we to understand that the deliberations or the speeches that are made on the floor of this House are communicated to the department

concerned or they are not communicated from your office to the department concerned? In the event of these deliberations and debates not being communicated to the Heads of the Departments, I am constrained to say that these deliberations and everything are mockery and mere waste of money.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as supplying copies of official proceedings is concerned, printed copies are supplied to all honourable members of this House. So far as taking down notes of the speeches made during the budget session is concerned, that is a concern either of the Hon'ble Minister or his representative, the Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to what you just stated, have copies of the last budget session been supplied to all the members?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I do not know whether you were present in the House when this question was raised once again by Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose. I made the necessary enquiries and I found there was no delay on the part of the Assembly office in sending the proceedings to the press which is managed by the Government, but the press due to various reasons, due to abnormal conditions also, could not finish the printing of the proceedings. That is why the printed copies of the last budget session have not been supplied yet. I am not in a position to say anything more than this. I do not know whether the Leader of the House or his representative will be able to throw further light on this matter.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Does it mean that the Hon'ble Ministers during all this time have remained in the dark—their departments took no notes of statements, criticisms and suggestions relating to their departments in this House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Arising out of your direction just given, are we to understand that the Hon'ble Minister does not take note of or does not listen to the criticism made from this or other side of the House and take action accordingly or not?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Neither the Hon'ble Minister nor the Parliamentary Secretary has said up till now that notes have not been taken by them.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of privilege, Sir, I would like to suggest that as the present position is so unsatisfactory, the proceedings of this House should be printed at fortnightly intervals. The delay is because they try to print the whole proceedings of the session. Surely, if the proceedings were printed at fortnightly intervals, we would have them within a short period. I would also like to suggest to you that you would convey the strong feeling of this House about the delay in producing these printed proceedings to the Hon'ble Chief Minister with the suggestion that he should himself personally go into the matter with the press.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We welcome the suggestion made by Mr. Stark that the proceedings should be printed in instalments and should be done either fortnightly or at whatever period you may think necessary. But the difficulty is that the Bengal Government Press is working under heavy pressure. They are not able to cope with the work, but we shall certainly give instructions that the proceedings of the House should be placed on a very high priority and they may be able to give copies as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: May I submit that is a mere pious expression of wish.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: He has not understood, Sir. I have said that we shall issue instructions to the Government Press so that the publication of the proceedings of this House may be treated as a very high priority.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as I am concerned, so long as this practice remains that the proceedings are to be printed by the Government Press, it is for the Government Press to expedite printing of the proceedings. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that it will be expedited, but if it is decided by the House to arrange for printing of the proceedings by a press which may be placed absolutely under the control and management of the Assembly Department, I will have no objection to do so, or if the House desires that the proceedings should be printed by a press other than the Government Press—by any commercial press—that also can be done, but for that purpose the House shall have to give its opinion. So, in the present circumstances, I can only request the Government to expedite the printing of the proceedings.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of privilege, Sir. Your ruling just now does not reconcile the point of privileges that I raised. It was not the printing of the proceedings for which I was grumbling, but it was the actual conveying of the contents of the proceedings to the departments concerned from your office and replies and answers given to them—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have understood your point, Mr. Sabur, I am informed by the Secretary that the entire proof copies of the proceedings are sent to the Government for distribution among the departments concerned. So there had been no negligence on the part of my office.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Sir, I would like to know why the Minister is silent. Let him say "I do not know anything about this".

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I then request the Hon'ble Minister through you, Sir, to pay a little more attention to the criticisms that are made in this House and not to shut his eyes?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: You made no constructive criticisms. Due regard is given to the constructive criticisms made on the floor of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to say anything more?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. I think you have clarified the position. The proceedings of the House even before they are published are sent to the respective departments through the Ministers of the Departments. Since you have clarified the position, I don't want anything more to say.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি, যে তার (a) (i) উদ্ধৃতি আছে "Neither the department nor its officers in the Dacca district have received any such complaints." বাংলায় একটা কথা আছে "রাজা কর্ণের পশাতি"—রাজা কর্ণ দিয়েই সেপেন। কিন্তু রাজকালকার রাজা সেবাতি চোখ দিয়েও দেখতে পান না। এইসব ব্যাপার যদি সংবাদপত্রে বেবোর ডাইলে মহীমহাশয়ের অনুগ্রহ করে তাঁদের লোচন ও শ্রবণদ্বারা অনুধাবন করে— "রাজা কর্ণের পশাতি" কথাটার সাংকড়া দেখাবেন এবং আশা করি কথিত ব্যাপারগুলির যথাযোগ্য প্রতিকার করবেন।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a relevant question.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what was done with the stock of rice at the disposal of the Civil Supplies Department at Dacca which was condemned as unfit for human consumption?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: It was sold by auction.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where was it sold by auction?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I cannot say that off-hand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the quantity of such rice that was sold in auction?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I cannot say that off-hand.

Deterioration of certain roads in Mymensingh district due to movement of some essential commodities.

***127. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (MYMENSINGH):** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that lakhs of maunds of paddy and rice are procured by Government and other purchasers from the surplus areas of Nalitabari, Sribordi and Sherpur thanas of Jamalpur subdivision (Mymensingh) and many other commodities such as cotton, *shal* woods are transported outside from the aforesaid area and the border area of Garo hills;
- (b) whether the abovementioned commodities are generally moved via the roads of Nalitabari-Sherpur and Sherpur-Jamalpur;
- (c) whether the abovementioned roads have greatly deteriorated and as a result of that the movements of above commodities have become most difficult to the detriment of the interests of the growers as well as consumers;
- (d) whether he is aware that owing to the insufficient resources of the District Board concerned the people are undergoing untold hardship on account of the bad condition of the roads;
- (e) if so, what steps are proposed by Government to remove these long-felt grievances; and
- (f) whether the Civil Supply Department is going to take the responsibility of cost (partly or wholly) to bring the road in proper condition?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: (a) to (c) Yes.

(d) and (e) I refer the honourable member to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Health and Local Self-Government Department.

(f) No.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that Haluaghat on the border of Garo hills is a big paddy procuring centre?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's answer "yes", will he be pleased to state whether the Civil Supplies Department is experiencing the difficulty of transport with regard to the carrying of rice from the surplus places to places where they are to be stored?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have received no such information.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the Civil Supplies Department is arranging transport at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Things are being carried through the roads existing.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Owing to the bad condition of roads will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what means of conveyance is used for this purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I have not received any information that these roads are in a very bad condition at present.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What is the means of conveyance used?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Carts, lorries, etc.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many carts and bullocks are now working for the Civil Supplies Department? (Laughter).

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice

System of cloth distribution.

***128. Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department aware—

(i) that the number of consumers linked to a particular cloth ration shop are so large that they have to wait for hours in queues in open space under sun and rain before they get their quota of rationed cloth; and

(ii) that even after waiting for several hours the consumers are unable to get their quota on the same day only because the time fixed for distribution is too limited and short for the number of consumers to be supplied with their respective quota?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether the rationed articles (cloth and food) to a new applicant are supplied with from the date of his application;

(ii) if not, how long he is to wait for his quota of ration;

(iii) how long it takes for renewal of ration cards; and

(iv) if the time taken for such renewal affects the continuity of supply?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what steps Government are considering to take for the relief of the consumers from unnecessary hardships and loss of time?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: (a) (i) This is not a fact. There are two classes of cloth shops in Calcutta "A" and "B". The "A" class shop is allowed to register 10,000 and the "B" class shop is allowed to register 5,000 cloth folders. As a rationee has to visit his cloth shop only once a quarter usually it is not difficult for an "A" class shop to serve 10,000 and a "B" class shop to serve 5,000 customers.

Queues are seen occasionally before cloth ration shops at the time of the month when fresh supplies of cloth arrive but they are certainly not common. Supplies of superfine and fine varieties of cloth are restricted and that is why

there is a rush of customers for a day or two after the bales are opened. So long as supplies of superior varieties of cloth continue to be small this sort of temporary overcrowding in the shop is inevitable.

On account of an increase in the ration card population of Calcutta since the initiation of cloth rationing on 1st October, 1945, it has been found necessary to open an additional number of cloth shops. Steps are being taken to select these additional shops.

(ii) This is not a fact. Hours observed by cloth ration shops are as follows:—

(1) For cloth retailers who are members of the Calcutta Trades Association the working hours are—

Week days—

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

Saturdays—

9 a.m. to 12 noon.

(2) For cloth retailers who are not members of the Calcutta Trades Association the working hours are—

9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

When a day is observed as a half working day the working hours are either 9 a.m. to 12 noon or 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The working hours are therefore reasonably long and there should be no difficulty in the way of consumers drawing their supplies.

(b) (i) and (ii) A newcomer to the rationed area is allowed to bring 7 days' ration with him. If he intended stay in the rationed area is 7 days or less, no ration card is issued to him. A newcomer to the rationed area intending to stay longer than a week within the rationed area should obtain a ration card on application. The normal time taken in issuing a ration card is only three to four days. Rationed food-stuffs are supplied to the holder of a ration card as soon as the card is registered in a food ration shop.

With regard to cloth, a newcomer to the rationed area is not allowed to have a cloth folder immediately on arrival. He becomes entitled to receive a cloth folder only 8 weeks after the date of his application for the food ration card. This rule has been introduced in order to prevent the issue of cloth to a mere visitor to the rationed area as distinguished from a person who has come to the rationed area to stay there. The holder of a cloth folder is allowed to draw his quota of cloth as soon as he presents his food ration card and cloth folder to his cloth ration shop.

(iii) Ration cards are re-written some time before the validity of the old card expires. If the rationee is at all vigilant and presents his old food ration card at the food ration shop for renewal he gets a new series food ration card before the expiry of validity of the old series food ration card.

(iv) No. If the holder of the food ration card surrenders it to his food ration shop for renewal in time the continuity of supply is not affected. If he is negligent however and does not surrender his food ration card at the food ration shop for renewal before the appointed date, he has to take the trouble of getting his food ration card renewed from the Rationing Office.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: As the question time is over, this question be held over for putting supplementary questions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, the question be held over.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, the question time began at 13 minutes past ten; so, the question time is not yet over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, the question time began at 10-5 a.m.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: But then there was your ruling which took a few minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But that does not matter; for my ruling on the point of order is also a part of the business of the House. As, however there is no time left, the question may be held over. Questions over.

Adjournment motion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I had given notice of an adjournment motion arising out of the statement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister regarding the raising of a private army by the Muslim League. May I know whether I have got your consent?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you received any communication from my office?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I have received no formal communication from the Secretary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you been verbally informed?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I have heard that consent has been refused, but I want some written document in reply. Would you kindly reconsider the matter, as it is a very important matter affecting the destinies of the people of the province? I think there is a considerable perturbation in the countryside as a result of the statement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: On a point of order, Sir. It is the convention of the House not to discuss the subject matter of an adjournment motion unless the consent is given.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of order, Sir. The mover of this adjournment motion wants to table his adjournment motion on an imaginary emergency which does not actually exist.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I have refused my consent, and so I do not want any discussion on the matter.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I have also given notice of an adjournment motion, on the failure of the Government to arrange—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Sinha, I do not find any grounds for revising my decision. I do not like to give out the reasons for refusing consent, but you will remember that when the Chief Minister says "when a private army is raised", it means a future contingency, and you cannot bring an adjournment motion on a hypothetical case or future contingency. If that thing really happens and your notice complies with the rules, the adjournment motion can then be allowed to be moved. So under the circumstances I cannot allow your adjournment motion to be moved.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, my adjournment motion was not on a future contingency; it was on a situation arising out of the statement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. I submit that a situation has arisen in which non-Muslims have been extremely perturbed over the statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, I deal with physical effects and not with mental effects. It does not relate to any occurrence, not to speak of any recent occurrence, nor does it comply with the rules.

Then, with regard to Mr. Ghose's motion, there also I am unable to revise my opinion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, before you pass on to Mr. Ghose's motion, I call your attention to the fact that arising out of the statement—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, what do you want to say? Are you on a point of order?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir. And my point of order relates to the statement made yesterday by the Minister in charge of Law and Order on the floor of the House in not giving any explanation as to how in spite of section 144 being in force in the city, a private army, namely, the Muslim National Guards, is parading in the streets of Calcutta—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I do not see how you are justified in raising a point of order on the statement made by the Chief Minister yesterday. You did not raise the point of order yesterday.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is always a privilege, Sir, of members with your permission—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, it is not a point of order. Now if you have got a point of privilege to make you can raise it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is my point of privilege, Sir. In view of the extraordinary situation prevailing in the province—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, tell me what is your point of privilege.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is the point of privilege, Sir, for a member to get your help and guidance in calling attention of the House on matters of grave incitement to violence and danger to public tranquillity in this province—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of privilege whether there has been incitement to violence or not. That is a matter of opinion. So far as I am concerned, I do not find any justification for allowing that adjournment motion.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: On a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, there cannot be a point of order on my ruling. There is no scope of a point of order on a ruling given by the Chair.

Mr. RAMHARI ROY: I want to submit one word.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: A submission can be made.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, I had to refuse consent to your motion, because neither your motion nor the statement records any date as to when there has been failure on the part of the Government. It is not possible to ascertain whether it is an incident of recent occurrence or not. Suppose it had been due to the negligence of the Government, it is a continuing matter and we do not know for what period it is continuing. So I cannot say it is of recent occurrence and it does not comply with the rules for moving an adjournment motion. So I had to refuse consent.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: It is not a continuing matter. The quota of foodstuff allotted to Bengal has lapsed. It is a very recent occurrence. Will you be pleased to reconsider your decision? Both the points you raised are not quite true.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, you say you have given the date. When was it?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The date was given—on account of the failure of the Bengal Government, the quota has lapsed and Bengal is not able to obtain her supply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, you have not given notice of the adjournment motion. I have asked Mr. Ghose. I am sorry I am unable to discuss further about the ruling that I have given.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I say the statement you have made is not based on actuality.

Short Notice Question.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I have a submission regarding another matter. On the 7th February, last —

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your submission?

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Regarding the putting of a short-notice question. I put a short-notice question on the 7th February, last. I do not know yet what has happened to that question. I see, Sir, that a short-notice question is taking longer time than a long-time question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the department concerned?

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Home Department, Law and Order, regarding firing upon Mymensingh students on the 22nd January.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, we have sent for the report of the District Magistrate concerned. Unless we receive the report it is not possible for the Government to reply to the short-notice question. We have not received the reply as yet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply has not yet been received.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state how long the Government will take in getting a reply?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next business.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1947.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1947, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I rise on a point of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow you to raise a question of privilege at this stage. The time has passed. You cannot raise a point of privilege when an honourable member of the House is on his legs. I think the only relevant point that can be raised ordinarily at this time is a point of order. If you have got a point of privilege you can raise it after the Hon'ble Minister has finished.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I know he is standing to make the point of privilege long before the Hon'ble Minister stood on his legs.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, this is a very small measure which only seeks to extend the operation of the Bengal Non-Agricultural (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1940, for a further period of one year from the 29th May, 1947, when the existing Act will expire. The House may be aware that this Act was passed in 1940, with a view to stay eviction of non-agricultural tenants pending the enactment of a permanent and comprehensive legislation regulating the rights and interests of landlords and tenants in respect of non-agricultural lands. Such a comprehensive measure, viz., the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1946, has already been introduced and referred to a Select Committee of the House in the last session. The Select Committee have just finished their labours and the report will shortly be submitted. But it may not be possible to have it passed by both the Houses in the current session. Accordingly, it has been considered necessary to extend the operation of the Act of 1940 for a further period of one year. With these words, Sir, I would commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill. The vital point of this Bill is the exclusion of Calcutta. I have been opposing the Bill whenever it is brought to the House. As a matter of fact I have been opposing it from 1940.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Banerji, you will have your turn after the amendments have been moved.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: I would like to oppose at this stage, because as soon as a Bill is introduced, on principle any member can oppose it.

Disallowing of a question.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I gave notice of a question which has been disallowed. Rule 25 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, provides that the Speaker may disallow any question or any part thereof on the ground that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Provincial Government and if he does so, the question, or part of the question shall not be placed on the list of business. But, Sir, my question was—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharjee, I am sorry that the question hour is over. You should have raised your point during the question hour.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, it is a question of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are raising a point of privilege with regard to a question which has been disallowed by Mr. Speaker. So you should have raised your point after the questions were over. If you like to discuss the matter, you can see Mr. Speaker in his Chamber today or any other day.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Just after the questions were over, I rose on my legs, but I was not allowed to say then. My question was with regard to the number of persons appointed in the different grades of Police Department in 1944, 1945 and 1946, showing the number from each district and each community separately. My question is very simple—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow you to make any speech at this stage. Please tell me what is your point.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The point is why was his privilege infringed.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I submit, Sir, that under rules 25 and 26 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, there is no provision to disallow such a question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can only advise you to see Mr. Speaker in his Chamber. That question is not before me and I cannot reply to that.

The Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1947.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Banerji, so far as your question is concerned, you have not given notice of any motion and if you want to make a speech you may do so after the amendments are moved.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It may be opposed outright.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to hear Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar first.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as soon as this matter is brought forward, under rule 75, it is the privilege and right of the members of this House to oppose this motion and discuss the general principles and make a speech opposing the motion itself. No separate notice for such a speech is needed. You will be pleased to look at rule 75 which runs thus: "On the day on which such motion is made or any subsequent day to which the discussion is postponed, the principles of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed, but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principles". Sir, the scope for discussion is very limited on the amendments themselves.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am looking into rule 75. (After a pause). Yes, Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I find that I am right, I am not wrong. He cannot oppose it under rule 49. Rules 73 to 79—these rules relate to the procedure relating to Bills from the other House. This legislation has been passed by the Upper House, and it has been introduced in this House for consideration.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: But, Sir, I can discuss the general principles now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can do that after the amendments have been moved. My ruling is that amendments should be moved now.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I rise on a point of order, Sir. I could not understand your ruling. It will be helpful if you clarify a particular point which I am going to submit. You, Sir, referred to rule 49. I submit that rule 49 does not come in here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I said, is that rule 49 does not apply.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: That is why we take our stand entirely on rule 75 which definitely gives a right to discuss the general principles of the Bill before amendments are taken up. You cannot refer to rule 49, and if you confine yourself to rule 75, I submit we have a definite right to discuss the general principles of the Bill before the amendments are taken up. It has been laid down that the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principles.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly look at the contents of the amendments? They also relate to the general principles.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: That does not matter.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Amendments cannot go beyond the general principles of the Bill. There is no doubt about that, but my submission is that if you allow the amendments to be moved now, then you will be taking away our right conferred by this rule, viz., rule 75, to make criticisms on the general principles of the Bill, though we may be able to make criticisms of the details of amendments after they have been moved.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I am really surprised at their contention. Rule 75 states "On the day on which such motion is made or any subsequent day to which the discussion is postponed, the principles of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed, but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principles". The details of the Bill must not be discussed. You can discuss the principles of the Bill on the day, the motion is moved. It is not said that you must discuss the principles of the Bill before the amendments are moved. If you are going to discuss the amendments to the clauses, you cannot do it on that day, and if the amendment is in the nature of a reference to a Select Committee or of a circulation motion, even in that case you cannot do it. Rule 76 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, says, "Any member may, after giving seven days' notice (if the Bill has not already been referred to a Select Committee of the Council or to a joint committee of both the Chambers, but not otherwise) move as an amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee and, if such motion is carried, the Bill shall be referred to a Select Committee."

Now, Sir, there are two amendments to the motion for consideration—one for circulation for the purpose of eliciting opinion and the other for reference to a Select Committee. So long as these motions have not been moved, the House cannot discuss the general principles of the Bill.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, how are all these relevant?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Rules are made only for proper disposal of the business of the House; they are not made for obstructing the normal proceedings of the House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Rules are made for safeguarding the privileges of the members.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Yes. But that privilege will be secured if this procedure is followed, but if the other procedure is followed that will be simply waste of time. I have spoken about the disposal of business without infringing the privileges of the members and that will be done by following the procedure, I have suggested.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the amendments had related to different clauses of the Bill, I would not have allowed the amendments to be moved before the discussion of the general principles, but here the amendments are of such a nature that they would involve a discussion of the general principles. If I allow discussion of general principles by Dr. Banerji at this stage, there will be a repetition after the amendments have been moved. So the best thing would be to allow the amendments to be moved and then to have a general discussion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of privilege, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can there be a point of privilege after a ruling? The amendment should be moved first. So there cannot be any point of privilege.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, if you will be pleased to refer to page 16 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I do not like to hear any thing on my ruling.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is your ruling, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My ruling is, the amendment should be moved first and Dr. Banerji will then speak opposing the motion for consideration.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, if that is your ruling under rule 75, we are debarred from exercising our right of discussing the merits of the Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is open to you to interpret my ruling in any way you like, but that question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I am asking for your guidance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get guidance in my ruling.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of privilege, Sir. My point of privilege is this. My submission is that when the Speaker gives a ruling, the Speaker must function in accordance with the rules. If there is any definite provision in the rule, it does not lie with the Speaker to take away that right.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, it is a question of interpretation of the rules. In spite of the Speaker's ruling being very very sound, it is open to another to interpret it in a different way and members may differ from the decision of the Speaker. But I have given my ruling, and I am not prepared to allow any further discussion on that ruling.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I do not wish to discuss any ruling that you in your wisdom may give, but I am entitled to know definitely as to what that ruling is.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you say you have not heard my ruling, I am not going to repeat it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, will you allow us to make a submission with a view to have your ruling revised?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, I have given my ruling, and there cannot be any comment on my ruling.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, it is a very important right of ours which cannot be flouted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have not cared to hear what my ruling was, I am not going to repeat it again. Yes, Mr. Arabinda Gayen.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, your ruling is not at all clear—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your seat? I am repeatedly asking you to take your seat, but every time you are rising up and want to say that you have not heard my ruling. I have more than once told you that I am not going to repeat it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: But if you in your wisdom stand up and direct me to sit down, then I am helpless.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I find that as soon as I stand up to make an observation, you also stand up and intervene, saying, what is my ruling. Will you kindly sit down?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Fancy, Sir, I am sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You in your wisdom are capable of imagining that I am sitting when on legs; but I in my wisdom am incapable of imagining that Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar is sitting when he is on his legs.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of privilege, Sir. Under rule 75 are we entitled to have a general discussion on the Bill before the House from the Council before amendments are taken up? I want your ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, that is not a new point. Please refer to my ruling.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, you have not given any ruling; you have only said that if amendments are moved, then the general principles may be discussed. That is merely a suggestion. We don't object to your ruling. But what is your ruling?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, you want to hear my ruling again? My ruling is, that amendments of a general nature should be moved first, and the moving of these amendments will not deprive Dr. Banerji of the right of discussing the general principles. So I will allow the amendments to be moved first and then allow the general discussion to take place.

Mr. ARABINDA CAYEN: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1947.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, we feel very much aggrieved on this side of the House, if you will not be pleased to give us at least this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: My point of order is——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a point of order?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is a point of order as well as a point of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Either it must be a point of order or it must be a point of privilege.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am on a point of order which has a bearing on the privilege of this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There cannot be a point of order on the privilege of the House. The point of order must refer to the amendment moved. What is your point of order?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: My point of order is this, that the Bengal Legislative Assembly is entitled, when a Bill passed by the Council is introduced, without going into any amendments or any details or without even tabling any notice of amendment, unconditionally the Bengal Legislative Assembly is entitled to——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am giving you my point. I must place my point before you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will only hear a point and not a speech. Kindly make out your point.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The Bengal Legislative Assembly is entitled to discuss on general principles any Bill originating in the Bengal Legislative Council and which has been forwarded to this House, and that as soon as the Hon'ble Minister has moved a motion we are entitled to have a general discussion on it. That is my point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will find your answer in my ruling. If I really felt that the general discussion would be fettered by any amendment, I would not have allowed the amendments at all. Will you kindly look at the language of the amendment and then raise your point of order?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Amendments are no part of the Bill. Looking at the contents of the Bill, I come to the general principles of the Bill. The general principles of the Bill are not given in the amendment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given my answer.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Do we understand that you have not given a ruling on the point, but have suggested a course of action which is considered best by you?

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not received the consent of the honourable member who is proposed to be on the Select Committee.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: He has also the previous amendment in his name.

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE: I will speak on the amendment.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, এই বিলটি লম্বা আমাদের আপত্তি আছে নতুন নয়। ১৯৪০ সালে যখন এই বিলটি এই পরিষদে প্রথম উপস্থাপন করা হয় সেই অবধি আমি পুনঃপুনঃ এই বিলের আপত্তি করে আসছি। আমার আপত্তির মূল কারণ এই যে, এই বিলের আওতা থেকে কলিকাতাকে বাদ দেওয়া হয়েছে। Non-agricultural tenantদের সুবিধা দেওয়াই এই বিলের উদ্দেশ্য, কিন্তু কলিকাতার মত বৃহত্তর নগরীতে যে লক্ষ লক্ষ non-agricultural tenant আছে তাদের এই বিলের আওতা থেকে বাদ দিয়ে এই বিলের মূল উদ্দেশ্যকে বাহ্যত করা হয়েছে। শুধু তাই নয়, এই কলিকাতা নগরীতে অনেক দিন হতে অসংখ্য গরীব শ্রমিক এবং ছোট ছোট ব্যবসায়ী জমিদারের কাছ থেকে ছোট ছোট ভবি নিয়ে নিজেদের ক্ষমতাশীল বর তৈয়ার করে ব্যবসা চালাচ্ছে কিংবা জী-পুত্র নিয়ে বাস করছে। যদি কলিকাতাকে এই বিলের আওতা হতে বাদ দেওয়া হয় তবে এই গরীব শ্রমিকদের উপর নিলম্বিত উৎপীড়ন করা হবে, দরিদ্র ব্যবসায়ীদেরও ব্যবসার মধ্যে ক্ষতি হবে। তাই কলিকাতার দরিদ্র জনগণের পক্ষে হতে আমি এই বিলের তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করছি এবং বলছি যে, যদি এই বিল হতে কলিকাতাকে বাদ দেওয়া হয় তবে বাংলার অসংখ্য জনগণ দ্বারা ক্রমশঃ নকশ্বল হতে এসে এখানে বাস করছে তাদের ন্যায়সম্মত অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত করা হবে। এবং আমার আপত্তির আর একটি কারণ এই যে, আমি কেরাচি গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে বৎসরের পর বৎসর চালবাহানা করা হচ্ছে ব্রাহ্ম, কিন্তু বিলটিকে কাজে পরিণত করা হচ্ছে না। বিলটিকে প্রথম উপস্থাপিত করা হয় ১৯৪০ সালে, তারপর পুনঃপুনঃ এই বকর Amendment বিল আসছে, কিন্তু মূল বিলটি Actএ পরিণত করা হচ্ছে না। ১৯৪০ সালে ইহাকে বহাল করা হয়েছিল ৫ বৎসরের জন্য, পরে করা হয় ৭ বৎসরের জন্য, এবার করা হচ্ছে ৮ বৎসরের জন্য। এবং এর পরে হয়ত করা হবে ১০ বৎসরের জন্য। এইভাবে বৎসরের পর বৎসর এই বিলটি করা হবে, কিন্তু দরিদ্র জনগণের উপকার সাধন করবার

জনা এই বিলটি Actএ পরিণত করা হবে না। সুতরাং প্রথমতঃ কলিকাতাকে এই বিল হতে বাদ দেওয়ার জন্য এবং দ্বিতীয়তঃ বৎসরের পর বৎসর চাল বাহানার দিন কাটানোর জন্য আমি এই বিলের তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করছি।

Mr. SUSIL KUMAR BANERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, আমি এই বিলের প্রতিবাদ করতে লাড়িয়ে এই কথাই বলতে চাই এটা Muslim League Ministryর আর একটা ধাম্পাঝাড়া। ১৯৪০ সাল থেকে তাঁরা ক্রমাগত দরদ দেখাচ্ছেন যে, তাঁরা গরীবদের জন্য অনেক কিছু করবেন। গত বারের নির্বাচনী ইচ্ছাচারেও তাঁরা এই বলে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছিলেন। তাঁরা বিল আনছেন বাণি বাণি, কিন্তু বিল পাশ করবার তাঁরা কোন রকম চেষ্টা করেন না। (Voice from Government Benches: চেষ্টা করা হবে।) গত ১৯৪০ সাল থেকে এই বিল দপ্তরে পড়ে আছে। যদি তাঁদের গরীবদের প্রতি দরদ থাকত তা হলে এই Non-agricultural Tenancy Bill ১৯৪০ হতে ১৯৪৭ সনের মধ্যে কিচময় পাশ করতেন। (Cries of "hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.) তাঁদের ছিল brute majority, তাঁরা ইচ্ছা করলে এই বিল পাশ করতে পারতেন। তারপর আর একটা কথা এই যে, তাঁরা কলিকাতাকে রেখে-ছেন Non-agricultural Tenancy Billএর বাইরে। কলিকাতা সহরে এর bad effect আমরা দেখছি। (Noise from Government Benches.) আজকে বক্তৃতার সময় আনাকে বাধা দিয়ে মনে করবেন না যে, বাইরে যে আমাদের অসংখ্য সমর্থক আছে তাদের ফেরাতে পারবেন। পাশেও পাবেন নাহি দুই এক বৎসর। ১৯৪০ সাল থেকে আজ পর্যন্ত বিলটি কেন পাশ হল না? ১৯৪০ সাল হতে ১৯৪৫ সাল পর্যন্ত বিলটি ফেলে রাখা হয়েছে। তারপর আবার ১৯৪৬ সালে বিলটি দেওয়া হয়েছে Select Committeeর হাতে। আজকে Select Committeeর যে Report বার হয়েছে তাতে দেখা যাচ্ছে তাতে কাজ সামান্যই হয়েছে। এখনও তাঁরা শেষ করতে পারেননি। এতেই তাদের এ ব্যাপারে কঠোর সিদ্ধান্তটি আছে এইটা দেখলেই তা মনে হয়। বসবার আগে ২১১ কথা বলতে চাই। (Voice from Government Benches: বসুন, বসুন।) আপনারা মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের ভোটার ভোটার সব কিছুই করতে চান, কাজে কিন্তু কিছুই নেই। এই যেমন জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের ব্যবস্থা। জমিদারী প্রথা বহিষ্কারে কথা শুধু মুখেই শুনি। কাজে কিছু দেখছি না। ৭ বৎসর থেকে শুনি বিল তৈয়ারী হচ্ছে। তারপর যা বলছিলেন কলিকাতাকে কেন বাদ দেওয়া হল তা আপনারা অনেকেই জানেন এবং মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ও জানেন, এমন অনেক জিনিষ আছে যা তাঁরা বাদ দিয়েছেন। আজকে আবার লীগ Ministry ধাম্পাঝাড়া করে বলছেন সময় বাড়িয়ে দিয়ে Temporary Bill করতে। যদি তাঁরা Temporary Bill না এনে আসল বিলটি আনতেন তাহলে বুঝতে পারতাম সত্য সত্যই এই বিলের প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে এবং এর প্রয়োজনীয়তা উপলব্ধি করেই এই বিলটি তাঁরা আনতেন। কিন্তু তাঁরা সে বিল আনেননি। এমন কি কবে কালেক্ট করে তাঁরা আমাদের শুধু একটা ধাম্পাঝাড়া দিয়ে বুঝাতে চাচ্ছেন যে, মুসলিম লীগ Ministry দেশের জন্য খুব কাজ করছে। একে আমরা মুসলিম Ministry বলি না, কারণ আমরা দেখছি পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অত্যাচারিত এবং উৎপীড়িত মুসলমানদের জন্য তারা কিছুই করেন নাই। তাই বলছি এটা মুসলিম লীগ Ministry এবং আজ এই বিলের প্রতিবাদ করে জানাচ্ছি তাঁদের এই সমস্ত ধাম্পাঝাড়া আর বেশী দিন চলতে পারে না। তাই আমি আপনাদের কাছে এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলবো যে, তিনি এই বিলটি withdraw করে নিন। এখনও সময় আছে। বিলটি এখনও Select Committeeতে পড়ে আছে। সেখানে তাগাল কখন। যদি প্রতিবাদ করবার কিছু ইচ্ছা থাকে তবে তাই করুন। আমরা চাই ১১শে মার্চ অবধি বিলটি circulationএ থাকে। যদি সত্যই আপনারা মনে করে থাকেন যে, এটা কবাব দরকার তাহলে বাধা দিবার ইচ্ছা আমার নাই। যাত্র এক মাস সময় আছে। যদি এর ভিতর Select Committeeর Report আসে তাহলে আপনারা তা Houseএর কাছে পেশ করতে পারেন। তা না কবে, সেলিক সভ্যকালের কোন রকম চেষ্টা না করে আবার এই বিলের রেওয়াজ বাড়ানোর জন্য আসা হয়েছে। আজকে এই বিলের জন্য Howrah পুত্রি সহরে কেহ কোন রকম কিছু করতে পারছে না—permanent structureএর কোন কাজই করতে পারছে না। সবই temporary অবস্থায় আছে। তাতে শুধু ডাঙতাই দেওয়া হয়েছে। তার আসল অবস্থা সংক্ষেপে আমরা কিছু কিছু জানি। আমরা দেখছি tenantরা কি অবস্থায় পড়ে আছে। কলিকাতার পাশে হাওড়া একটি industrial city। সেখানে এর কি effect হয়েছে? সেখানে লোকে বর পায় না, বাড়ী পায় না এবং তারপর পায় না, ভবি তাদের কেউ গিড়ে চার না, যদি তারা জানত যে বিলটি Permanent Statute Bookএ উঠছে তাহলে সেসকলভাবে তারা কাজ করত।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: On a point of privilege, Sir. In the matter of legislation affecting the interests of a large number of people, a member should be allowed to say what he has got to say. There is no question of time-limit.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What rule are you referring to?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In the rule this matter of time-limit has been kept vague intentionally, so that a member must be allowed to say what he has got to say in this matter of legislation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the practice of the House. Please hear me. Do you mean to say that this is the practice of the House that any amount of time should be allowed to any speaker when discussing the principle of the Bill?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Reasonable time should be given. This is a point of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a point of privilege.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Certainly it is a point of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, I will look into the question. If I find that really it is a question of privilege, I will refer it to the Committee of Privileges.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The procedure rule has got to be changed by introducing rules to this effect. But so long as it has not been changed, we should be allowed to say what we have got to say.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that in anticipation of the change of rules, I can do what is hoped to be done?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir, which arises out of the facts placed before the House. If there is a Bill of the same nature on the anvil of this House which is now at the Select Committee stage, can the same Bill be considered even if it is sent by the Upper House? Of course, I am speaking subject to correction. I do not know exactly the provisions. You will consider this. The Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill is on the anvil of this Legislative Assembly. It is in the Select Committee stage. It is a well-known principle that if there is a Bill pending on the same matter in the same House, no other Bill relating to that matter can be introduced. This point strikes me as I hear this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This point occurred to me a few days back also, although the point was not raised in this House. I looked into May's Parliamentary Practice also, but I could not find anything for safe guidance. So far as this Bill is concerned, it is merely a Non-Agricultural Tenancy Extending Bill meaning extending the temporary provisions. When the other Bill is not before me, I do not know whether the provisions are identical. Unless I know what the provisions of that Bill are, I cannot say that this Bill is incompetent.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: I would ask you to look into the matter, because otherwise you will be doing an illegal thing.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Supposing the House comes to a different decision on the same thing, what will happen?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. Rule 39 lays down that a motion must not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Assembly has given a decision in the same session. I may bring this for your consideration that the practice sought obtains in the House of Commons and, and as explained in May's Parliamentary

Practice, page 375, it is as follows: no question or Bill shall be brought in either House that is substantially the same as the one on which its judgment had already been expressed in the same session. Again on page 491, it is stated as follows: there is no rule or custom which restrains the presentation of two or more Bills—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it in the same session, Mr. Ghose?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Yes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But here the cases are different, and so your reference does not apply to them.

Mr. SUSIL KUMAR BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, এই বিলের মধ্যে হাওড়াকে বলা হয়েছে, কিন্তু কলিকাতাকে বাদ দেওয়া হয়েছে। হাওড়া এবং কলিকাতার মধ্যে ব্যবধান তুণু নদীর এবং নদীর উপরে সেতু, কিন্তু হাওড়ার কলিকাতা Corporation Actএর প্রায় সবটাই আছে তুণু নদের তিনটিটা বাদ দিয়ে। হাওড়া একটা Industrial Centre. হাওড়ায় কিছু ভবির প্রয়োজন, কিন্তু সে ভবির বিলিবাংবা বন্ধ হয়ে গিয়েছে। গত পাঁচ বৎসর যাবৎ তারা হাওড়ায় বাস করছে, তাঁরা দেখেছে যে এক টুকরা জমিও ধীরে জমিদার তাঁরা বিলি করতে চান না, তাঁরা ভাবেন যে, যদি এই বিলটা যেটা Ordinance এর মত ৭ বৎসর ধরে চলে আসতে, এইভাবে চলতে থাকে তাহলে তাদের কি পরিণতি হবে। এইভাবে ব্যবহার করে বিল এনে আপনারা লোকের দুরবস্থা করবেছেন। আজ তাদের ঘব নাই, বাড়ী নাই। জনসাধারণ যারা মজুরী করে, চাকুরী করে, তাদের কতদূর থেকে আসতে হয়! যখন বাহি মটার সময় নিলে এসে জোটে—লীগের বন্ধুরা ধীরে ধীরে দরদর দেখাচ্ছেন তাঁরা যে তাদের কষ্ট বোঝেন তা ত মনে হয় না। যদি তা' বন্ধ হতেন তাহলে তাঁরা যে অসহ্যার ভিতর আছে সেটা দূর করবার ব্যবস্থা করে লিভেন। তাদের জমি পাইয়ে ঘব করে যেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা আজও হয়নি। গত Sessionএ যখন Assemblyতে বিল এসেছিল তাঁরা ডেবেছিল এবার বৃষ্টি একটা কিছু হয়ে যাবে, কিন্তু দেখা গেল এই বিল Select Committee দিয়ে পরীক্ষা করতে প্রায় ছয় মাস কেটে গেল যখন সেটা amended হয়ে এলো দেখা গেল তাতে কিছু নেই, আছে তুণু ধোঁয়া ঘাব ধাম্পা। আবার তাকে সময় দেওয়া হ'ল। এমনি কবে যাবা দিনের পর দিন মানুষকে ঠাকর তাদের কাছ থেকে কি আশা করা যায়? আজকে আবার এই বিলটিকে নিয়ে আর একবার ধাম্পা দিবার সুযোগ দিবার যোটেই ইচ্ছা নেই। তাবপর আর একটা কথা আপনাদের অনুগ্রহন করতে অনুরোধ করবো। যদি সত্যি আজকে আমান কথাব পর আপনাদের কিছুমাত্র চৈতন্য হয়, তাহলে বলবো আপনারা শীঘ্র শীঘ্র Select Committee থেকে এনে বিলটি যাতে আইনে পরিণত হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। যদি আমরা বৃষ্টি যে সেটা ভাল হয়েছে তাহলে নিশ্চয়ই আমরা সমর্থন করবো, নইলে করবো না। পুতি বৎসর একটি করে বিল এই Assemblyতে আনবা পাই। কিন্তু বিলটি যখন পড়ি তখন দেখি তাতে কিছুই নেই—আছে কেবল ধোঁয়া। এখানে আব একটি বিল আসতে পাবে। তার ভিতরও দেখা যাবে আছে কেবল ধোঁয়া—বাইরে থেকে লোককে ফুঁসিয়ে আনবার যে ব্যবস্থা সে ব্যবস্থা আছে, কিন্তু লোকের প্রকৃত উপকার করবার কোন ব্যবস্থা তাতে নেই।

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহাশয়, ডাঃ সুরেনচন্দ্র ব্যানার্জি এই বিলটির যে তীক্ষ্ণ প্রতিবাদ করেছেন আমি তাহা সমর্থন করি। এই বিলটি policyর দিক থেকে ভ্রান্ত নিশ্চরী। বিলটি ১৯৩৭ সাল থেকে এই রকম ঠিকাতাবে চলে আসছে। আজ পর্যন্ত এই মন্ত্রিবলী তাঁদের বন দ্বির করতে পারেন নাই যে, এই বিলটি দ্বারী আইনে পরিণত করবেন কি না। দুই বৎসর, এক বৎসর এই রকম করে ঠিকাতাবে তাঁদের বেয়ালমত ক্রিয়িত্তে ক্রিয়িত্তে এই বিল আইনে পরিণত করার বেয়াম বৃদ্ধি করে যাচ্ছেন। তাঁদের এই রকম অস্বাভাবী মনোভাব অত্যন্ত নিশ্চরী। সত্যি যদি তাঁদের গরীব প্রভাববর্গের দুঃখে প্রাণ কেঁদে থাকে, সত্যি যদি তাঁরা দেশের ভূমিহীন দরিদ্রদের দুঃখে দুঃখিত হয়ে থাকেন, তাহলে তুণু ভোঁদের শ্রমোক্তন ছাড়াও তাঁদের এই বিলটি দ্বারী আইনে পরিণত করবার চেষ্টা করা উচিত। ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহাশয়, এই শ্রমকে আবার একটি গল্প মনে পড়ে যাচ্ছে। গল্পটি হয়ত এখানে অনেকই জানেন। আরামেশ সেন গঙ্গাটির খুব প্রচলন আছে।

এক বাতীকর একটি বানর ও একটি ছোট বেয়ে নিয়ে বেশে বেশে বেলা বেশিরে বেড়াতে। বানরটির বা বেয়েরির বেলা আপনুজ্ঞান না হলে বাতীকর তাদের প্রহার করতো এবং নালা প্রহার ভর্ৎসনা করতো। একদিন বাতীকরের অনুপস্থিতিতে একটি বন্য বানর বাতীকরের বানরকে বলিল, “কি বড়, তোমাকে এত ঘোণা দেখার কেন?”

ভোমকে যদি ভাল খেতে না শের তবে বাজীকরের সঙ্গ পরিত্যাগ কর; আমি তোমাকে মুক্ত করে আমাদের সঙ্গে নিয়ে যাচ্ছি; কত রূপে থাকতে পারবে।” বাজীকরের বানরটি বললো—“আমি তা জানি, কিন্তু বাজীকরের সঙ্গে থাকার আমার একটি future prospect রয়েছে।” বন্য বানরটি বিশেষ আগ্রহের সহিত জিজ্ঞাসা করলে বাজীকরের বানর বলিল, “বাজীকরের সঙ্গে ছোট বেরেট ভাল খেলা দেখাতে না পারলে শ্রাবই ডাকে বলা হয়, “ভাল খেলা না দেখালে এই বানরের সঙ্গে তোমার বিয়ে দেখো”,--এইটাই আমার future prospect এবং এই আশায় আমি এত কষ্ট সহ্য করছি। এই বিলটি দ্রুত বা সাধারণকে লোভ দেখিয়ে ভোট দেবার কৌশল ব্রাহ্ম। তাই আমি বলতে চাই, আমাদের দেশের নিরীহ ভূমিহীন জনসাধারণ যারা জমির অভাবে বরষাভী তৈরী করতে পারছে না তাদেরও সরকার একেবারে কিছু দেবে না, কেবল আশা দিয়ে রাখবে, কি জানি যদি দাত্যভা হতে যায়। সেইজন্য বিলটি ক্রিষ্টিতে, ক্রিষ্টিতে, দক্ষায় দক্ষায় দুই এক বংসর করে চালান হচ্ছে। তেপুটি শ্রীকার মহাশয়, আমি বলতে চাই এই বন্ধন চালাকি বাংলা দেশে আর বেশী দিন চলবে না। বর্ষের নামে সাম্প্রদায়িক উদ্ভাবনী দিয়ে নিরীহ চাষীদের আর বেশী দিন ভোলায় চলবে না। গভর্ণমেন্ট যেভাবে দেশের নিরীহ জনসাধারণের লক্ষ লক্ষ কোটি কোটি টাকা নিয়ে জিনিমিনি খেলছেন চিরকাল তারা এই অত্যাচার সহ্য করবে না, এমন নীরব থাকবে না। কি হিন্দু কি মুসলমান লকলেই একদিন জেগে উঠবে। তাদের মজের বিনিময়ে, প্রাণের বিনিময়ে এ খেলা বেশী দিন চলবে না। বাংলা দেশের বড়ই দুর্ভাগ্য যে, এখন পর্যন্ত এ খেলা এদেশে চলাচ্ছে, কিন্তু দিন শীঘ্র বনায় আসবে সন্দেহ নাই। গণ অভ্যুত্থানের এই যুগে কাবলাতী করে দরিত্রদের আর শাসনে লাবিয়ে রাখতে পারবে না, সে দিন চলে যাচ্ছে। সত্যি যদি দরিত্রদের জন্য তাঁদের মন কেঁদে থাকে, তাঁদের ঘের উথলে উঠে থাকে, তাহলে যতশীঘ্র সম্ভব এটাকে স্বাধী আইনে পরিণত করুন।

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY : মাননীয় সহ-সভাপতি মহাশয়, এখানে কিছু বলতে গাঁড়ালেই প্রথমেই মনে পড়ে বিগত ৮১২০ বছরের কথা, তাই কিছু বলতে গেলোই মনে হয়--

বলব বা কি. শোনবে কে সে
আছে কি আর কারো প্রাণ ?
পাব কি এমন কারেও
দেশের লাগি কাঁদে প্রাণ।
গড়াবে গড়না পায়
চন্দ্রে যাদের বন্দ্ব হল
মর্থ তাদের বিধিবে কি আর
আমার দুটো কথার ছলে।
নয় এ দিনের বেণু বীণের
মুদুরীড়ে বোহন তান
বজি-বীণায় তীপক ভাই
রক্ততালে ডাঙার গান
কবির স্বপন সোনার বাংলা
করচে যার। বানধান
ফট্টছাড়া ফট্ট তার।
ভিনু তাদের উপাশন ॥

কাজেই বলব কাকে ? কিন্তু না বলেও উপায় নেই। এই মশ বছর যাচ্ছে। এর আগে যখন একটানা গতিতে একটার পর একটা ক'রে বিল আসত, তখন আমি বলেছিলাম--বাংলার যে মন্ত্রিসভা--এ হলো বহু বিল-গড়া। বছরের পর বছর যায় আর দেখা যায় এদের দ্বারা নিত্য নৈমিত্তিক এক একটা বিল বেরিয়ে আসে। সে বিল যদি পড়ে দেখেন দেখবেন তেমন কিছুই ওতে নাই। যে কোন বিল যখন যাক না কেন, তার sum and substance একই। এলিকে ওলিকে বড়ই চান না অন্য কিছু বুঝতে পারবেন না। আজ কয়দিন ধরে হুচুল রাজ্যের গবুচল মন্ত্রীকে জিজ্ঞাসা করার মতন ব্যাপারই এখানে চলেছে। বাংলা দেশে যাঁরা আছেন এবং বাংলা ভাষা জানেন তাঁরা অবশ্যই বরীভ্রান্তের হুচুল রাজ্যের গবুচল মন্ত্রীর কথিতটান কথা জানেন। ব্যাপারটা হয়েছিল--

হুণু দেখেছেন রাতে হুচুল চুপ,
অর্থ তার ভ্রাবি ভাবি গবুচল চুপ।

এক একটি বহিস্তা এসেছেন, আর দেখেছেন কি না একটার পর একটা বিলের স্বপ্ন। আর এখানে সেই বহিস্তাকে ধীরে ধীরে রাখেন তাঁরা। তার অর্থ ভেবে চূপ হয়ে যান। যখন ভেবে ভেবে কোন রকম আর কিছুই কিম্বা পান না, তখন--

চারিদিক হতে আসে পণ্ডিতের দল
অযোধ্যা, কনোজ, কাঞ্চি, বগধ, কোশল।
উজ্জয়িনী হতে এল বৃধ-অবতঃ
কালীশয় কবীশ্রের ভাগিনেয় বংশ
বড় বড় মন্তকের পাকা শস্যক্ষেত
যাতাসে দুলিছে যেন শীর্ষ সমেত।

এক পণ্ডিত এক এক বকম ব্যাখ্যা পোনান--

নিবাত্ত সরল অর্থ অতি পবিত্র
বহু পুরাতন ভাব নব আবিষ্কার।
ত্র্যম্বকের ত্রিনয়ন ত্রিকাল ত্রিগুণ,
শক্তিভেদে ব্যক্তিভেদে ত্রিগুণ ত্রিগুণ।
বিবর্তন আবর্তন সম্বর্তন আদি,
জীবশক্তি শিবশক্তি করে বিসম্বাদী।
আকর্ষণ বিকর্ষণ পুরুষ প্রকৃতি,
আগ্নেয় চৌর্যক বলে আকৃতি বিকৃতি।
কৃশাগ্রে প্রবহমান জীবায় বিদ্যুৎ,
ধারণা পরমাশক্তি সেখায় অসুত।
ত্রয়ো শক্তি ত্রি স্বরূপে প্রপঞ্চে প্রকট—
সংক্ষেপে বলিতে গেলে “হিং টিং চট্”।

এঁদের এই সব বিল সংক্ষেপে বলতে গেলে ঐ হিং টিং চট্ ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়, বিল আনতে আমরা যে ভয় করি তা নয়। এদের এই একই ধরনের বিল আনতে দেশে আমাদের একটা গল্প মনে পড়ে--

একজন কৃত্তব্যধিগুপ্ত লোক গ্রামের এমন একটা পথশ্রান্তে গুয়ে আছে যেখানেই নাকি ঠাকুর দেবতার মন্দির আছে। একজন ব্রাহ্মণ পুরোহিত তাঁর ঠাকুর পূজা সমাধা করে স্নান-জল নিয়ে সেই পথে যাচ্ছিলেন--ঠাকুর সেই কৃত্তব্যধিগুপ্ত বসে--“ঠাকুর, আমাকে একটা স্নান-জল পাও তো”। ব্রাহ্মণ তাঁর হাতে স্নান-জল দেওয়া নাহি সেই জল সে তার কুঁড়ের মায়ে দিলে। ব্রাহ্মণ বলেন, “হা অভাগা, কি করছিল? ঐ স্নান-জল মাথায় না দিয়ে মায়ে দিলি? তোর যে মহা পাতক হবে”। তখন সে বলে উঠলে--ঠাকুর আমায় আর কী করবে? সেই রকম এই বহিস্তা হতে দেশে যত রকম অত্যাচার হবার হচ্ছে--তাব ইয়তাই নাই। তাই এই বহিস্তাকে বলি,--“আব কি করবে?” আজ তাঁরা ক্ষমতার মঙ্গলার্থে অঙ্ক হয়েছেন, কিছুই আর তাঁদের চোখে পড়বে না। যত ভাল কথাই অন্যে বলুক তা তাঁরা কানে তুলবেন না। যখন ক্ষমতা হাতে আসে তখন মনস্তত্ত্ব হাঙ্গের মনে প্রবল হয়ে কুটে ওঠে, ধবাধানা ঘাঘা সরাসরি ভাবে, ক্ষমতার গতিজ্ঞান থাকে না। হাঁদের, সেই সব দুর্ভেদ্য রাগ ও শিকড়পালের দল (hear, hear) ঘাঘা, তাবা দেশের কথা দেশের কথা ভাবে না, ডবিষাডের কথা তুলে যায়, শুধু বর্তমানের বহিস্তা চোখে ক্ষমতার স্বপ্ন দেখে। কিন্তু ১০০টি অপরাধ ক্ষমার পব বলা যে আর চলবে না, আপনাদের সাবধান করে দিচ্ছি--(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit there was the red light—a voice from the Government benches—লাল বাতি জ্বলেছে আপনায়, বন্ধুন।) লাল বাতি আমায় শ্বলেনি, গডব'রেশনের জ্বলেছে; আমি এই লাল বাতির উপহারণ দিয়েই শেষ করছি।

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the objects of the Bill are, as we were told, to secure rights unto the helpless population of Bengal who suffer at the hands of landlords and other owners of lands, then the reason for the non-inclusion of the Calcutta area seems to be inexplicable to us and that too for the following two reasons. Firstly, the number of people involved who suffer oppression at the hands of the landlords is the largest and biggest in the Calcutta area and, secondly, the enormities of this oppression also are maximum

in the Calcutta area. So, from these two points of view, the non-inclusion of Calcutta seems to be a matter which we on this side of the House cannot understand. I do not like to insinuate anything. I do not like to say that the landlords here in Calcutta have exerted some sort of influence upon the Ministry and have been able to secure immunity for themselves from the operation of this Bill.

Sir, what I want to say is this that the Ministry suffers from the crime of thoughtlessness. They speak one thing, they promise us one thing one day, but in their action they seem to deny that, they seem to nullify that. Let me explain my position. If we remember aright, in the Finance Minister's statement we were told and we were also told by the Hon'ble Labour Minister that steps are being taken for securing rights to the labouring classes, to the working classes and to the bustee people in the Calcutta area. If that be true and if we take it that the Ministry is sincere and honest in doing that, then why this Calcutta area has been excluded from the operation of this Bill?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sen, you are simply repeating Dr. Banerji's points.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: I do not think the points which I have advanced were advanced by Dr. Banerji. I do not think he has put forward these viewpoints from this angle.

Then, Sir, Calcutta is the area which contains the largest number of landless people. I personally have got experiences of seeing the oppression of the landlords upon these people, particularly after this Great Calcutta Killing. I have seen large number of people who have been uprooted from this area being denied re-entry into those lands, those areas by the landlords concerned. We had occasions to bring this through questions and through resolutions to the notice of the Ministry, and from that point of view also it seems to be a matter astounding to us to find the non-inclusion of that area from the operations of this Bill.

With these few remarks, Sir, I again oppose the Bill.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told the Chief Whip of the Opposition that I shall allow two more speakers. Yes, Mr. Lahiri.

Mr. PRAVASH CHANDRA LAHIRI: ১৯৪০ সালে এই বিল প্রথম এই পরিষদ-কক্ষে আসে। এই বিল আসার কারণ—বাংলা দেশে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে এই দিনের জন্য তুলসী আন্দোলন হয় এবং তখন মহানগরী দেশের যে এই আন্দোলন ঘনন করতে হলে এবং জনসাধারণের ভাটি পেতে হলে এই রকম একটা বিল নিয়ে আসা দরকার। তাই এই পরিষদ-কক্ষে বিলটি উপস্থিত হয়। তারপর থেকে আজ ১৯৪৭ সাল—এই ৭ বৎসর ধরে এই বিল এইভাবে চলেছে, এখনও আইনে পরিণত হয় নাই। আজকে আসার সুযোগ এর চান আরও এক বৎসর সময় দরকার। সময় যে দরকার কেন তা আমরা বলি, বাংলার জনসাধারণও কিছু কিছু বুঝতে পারছে। সময় দরকার এই জন্য যে একদিকে দাকার নবাবজাদারা, আর একদিকে বড়োজ নবাবজাদারা এবং আর একদিকে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ আছে। কোন দিক রক্ষা করা যায়। সুতরাং উভয় দিক রক্ষা করতে হলে এই বিলটি বামা চাপা দিয়ে দিনের পর দিন এইভাবে কাটিয়ে দিতে হবে। আমরা চাইছি এই বিলটি এখনই আইনে পরিণত হোক। কিন্তু তা হচ্ছে না কেন? কারণ গভর্ণমেন্ট তো আমাদের চাটে নাই, গভর্ণমেন্ট আপনারদের চাটে—আপনারদের majority আছে। একথা তবাব কেন না, তবে আপনারা সময় দাবী করেন কেন? আমরা বলি বিলটি পাশ করুন—আমরা আপত্তি তুলছি এতদূর যে আপনারা বিলটি পাশ করতে চান না। শুধু লোককে ধোঁকাবাজী দিয়ে তুল পথে নিয়ে যেতে চান; তাদের দেখাতে চান—পরিবর্তন। জন্য আপনারা কত দরদী। কিন্তু কার্যত: তা নয়। বরেন সচিব বাপসবাজী করবেন না। আরি মন্ত্রী পক্ষীয় বহুবলকে বলবো—এখানে হাঁরা। আজেন সকলে নবাবজাদা নন, সকলে ভূমিহীন নন, আপনারা গভর্ণমেন্টকে pressure দিন, যাতে এই বিলটি এক্ষণি পাশ হয়। এর জন্য আর একদিনও দেরী করার দরকার নাই। আমি বলবো এই বিলটি যাতে এই session-এই পাশ হয় তাই বাধ্য করা উচিত। আজ

পরিত্র জনসাধারণের জেটে আপনারা সকলে এবানে উপস্থিত হয়েছেন, তাদের দিকে চেয়ে দেখুন। আমার বন্ধু স্থপীল বাবু বলেছেন, সমস্ত লোক আজ একটা suspense এর ভেতরে আছেন। জবিশাররা তাদের জায়গা জরি দিচ্ছেন না। এই অবস্থায় পরিত্র জনসাধারণ গ্রন্থিক নতুনদের বহুদূর থেকে কলকাতাবানায় কাজ করতে আসতে হয়, বাড়ীভাড়া পায় না এবং বাড়ীঘর তৈরী করারও জায়গা পায় না। এই অবস্থা ৭ বৎসর চলেছে—আর যাতে না চলে তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। আপনাদের হাতে সেই ক্ষমতা আছে। আজ যদি তা না করেন তাহলে কেনে রাখুন এই পরিত্র জনসাধারণের কাছে আপনাদের জবাবদিহি করতে হবে: চিরকাল ধরে তাদের ঠকাতে পারবেন না। একদিন তাদের সামনে ধাঁড়িয়ে জবাবদিহি করতে হবে, তার জন্য আপনাদের প্রস্তুত থাকতে হবে।

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, the question be put now.

The question that the question be now put was then put and a division called.

(When the division was being taken, some members were coming into the Chamber even before the voting was declared closed from the Chair.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: On a point of order, Sir. You have seen, Sir, that members have been coming in even when the division has not been declared as closed, and you find that they are again being allowed to go out. It may lead to double recording of votes, and, as such, this division should be declared as cancelled, and a fresh recording of votes on the motion may be ordered by you.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, we are not responsible for this mistake, but as soon as it has been brought to your notice, members were asked to go out. Further, I submit there can be no question of duplication of voting, because when a member records his vote his name is ticked off, and there is no chance of the same member recording his vote twice without being detected.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Sir, we know the procedure that Mr. Mohammed Ali has explained just now. But members cannot come back into the Chamber while the division is going on until the closing of division is declared by the Chair. So this division is illegal and should be treated as cancelled—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mukherji, I do not like to continue the discussion on this subject any further. I am of opinion that there should be another voting on this motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I submit that in order that members may realise that this second division is on the same motion, the bells should be rung for a longer period than usual.

The question that the question be now put was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—92.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Aziz Munshi
Abdul Haiz, Mr. Mirza
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরী, Mr. Md.
Abdul Halim, Molla Mohammad
Abdul Hamid, Mr.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hannan, Mr.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
Abdullah Baqui, Mr. Md.
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr.
A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Khan (alias Nuru Mia),
Mr.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed

Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi
Ahmad Ali, Mr. Mir
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
Ahmed Hossain, The Hon'ble Mr.
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
Anwara Khalun
Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur
Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
Berman, Mr. Haran Chandra
Biswas, Mr. Bhola Nath

Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
 Emauddin Ahammed, Mr.
 Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
 Fazlul Karim, Mr.
 Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
 Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
 Hafizuddin Choudhury, Mr.
 Hassan Ali, Mr.
 Hatem Ally, Khan Sahib
 Hutchison, Mr.
 Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
 Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah
 Salyid
 Khuda Buksh, Mr. Md.
 Khurram Khan Panee, Mr.
 Luke, Mr.
 Madar Bux, Mr.
 Mahammad Owais, Mr.
 Majibar Rahman, Maulvi
 Malik, Dr. A. M.
 Masluddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah),
 Mr.
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Talyab
 Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.

Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
 Muhammad Qussem, Maulana Haji
 Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Ruknuddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed
 Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan
 Bahadur
 Najmul Huq, Mr. Md.
 Nasarulla, Mr. K.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
 Nurazzaman, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Parish, Mr. P. E. G. W.
 Powell, Mr. J. A.
 Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan
 Ricketta, Mrs. E. M.
 Sailm, Mr. S. A.
 Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, Khondkar, Mr.
 Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr.
 Stark, Mr. A. F.
 Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
 Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
 Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
 Walker, Mr. J. R.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
 Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

NOES—62.

Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
 Bandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
 Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal
 Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar
 Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra
 Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
 Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
 Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
 Birsha, Mr. Bir
 Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
 Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
 Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
 Das, Miss Bina
 Das, Mr. Bropomdhab
 Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
 Das, Mr. Radha Nath
 Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
 Dass, Mr. Kanallal
 Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath
 De, Mr. Kanai Lal
 Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan
 Dolul, Mr. Harendra Nath
 Dutta, Mr. Sukumar
 Dutta-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu
 Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari
 Gayen, Mr. Arabinda
 Ghose, Mr. A. K.
 Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar

Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra
 Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra
 Gupta, Mr. Menoranjhan
 Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand
 Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
 Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra
 Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
 Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
 Majumdar, Mr. Shupati
 Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
 Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh
 Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad
 Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari
 Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
 Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan
 Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar
 Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
 Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
 Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
 Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
 Sarker, Mr. Rajendra Nath
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan
 Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
 Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
 Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra

The Ayes being 92 and the Noes 62, the closure motion was carried.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: May I know what was the result of the first division?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has been cancelled. I merely give you the information, but I will not allow any discussion on that. The Opposition had 64 and the Government had 92.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: So our voting is the same.

The motion of Mr. Arabinda Gayen that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1947, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 31st March, 1947, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—82.

Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
Bandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal
Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
Birsha, Mr. Bir
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
Das, Miss Bina
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
Das, Mr. Radha Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
Dass, Mr. Kanailal
Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath
De, Mr. Kanai Lal
Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan
Dolul, Mr. Harendra Nath
Datta, Mr. Sukumar
Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu
Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari
Gayen, Mr. Arabinda
Ghose, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar

Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra
Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan
Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand
Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh
Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad
Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan
Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
Panja, Mr. Jadsabendra Nath
Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra
Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Chandra
Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath
Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan
Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh
Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra

NOES—91.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরi, Mr. Md.
Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad
Abdul Hamid, Mr.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. F. M.
Abdul Hannan, Mr.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
Abdullah Baqui, Mr. Md.
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr.
A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Khan (*alias* Nuru Mia),
Mr.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
Abul Kalam Samsuddin, Mr.
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi
Abul Quasem, Mr.
Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
Ahmed Hossain, The Hon'ble Mr.
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
Anwara Khatun
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.

Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
Biswas, Mr. Bhola Nath
Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr.
Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
Fazlul Karim, Mr.
Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
Haftuddin Choudhuri, Mr.
Hasan Ali, Mr.
Hatem Aily, Mr.
Hutchison, Mr.
Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah
Saiyid
Khuda Buksh, Mr. Md.
Khurram Khan Panoor, Mr.
Luke, Mr.
Madar Box, Mr.
Mahammad Owais, Mr.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
Majbar Rahman, Maulvi
Masuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Mia), Mr.
Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Tatyab

Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
 Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji
 Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed
 Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan
 Bahadur
 Najmul Huq, Mr. Md.
 Nasarulla, Nawabzada K.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
 Nurazzaman, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.

Parish, Mr. P. E. G. W.
 Powell, Mr. J. A.
 Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan
 Ricketta, Mrs. E. M.
 Salim, Mr. S. A.
 Serajul Haque, Mr. Syed
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias*
Badsha Mia), Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
 Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr.
 Stark, Mr. A. F.
 Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
 Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
 Walker, Mr. J. R.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
 Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 62 and the Noes 91, the motion was lost.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Sir, it is now past one o'clock and as arranged, the House should now adjourn.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, we would have no objection to sit till late, but we were under the impression that we would come prepared to sit up to one o'clock. Accordingly we have made engagements elsewhere which will be disturbed if we have to sit longer?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In order to shorten the time, I will now put the main motion if you have no objection.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1947, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council be taken into consideration was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—96.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
 Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
 Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza
 Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
 Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরi, Mr. Md.
 Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad
 Abdul Hamid, Mr.
 Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
 Abdul Hannan, Mr.
 Abdul Karim, Mr.
 Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
 Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md.
 Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr.
 A. F. M.
 Abdur Rahman (*alias* Nuru Mia), Mr.
 Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed
 Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
 Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
 Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi
 Abul Quasem, Mr.
 Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir
 Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
 Ahmed Hossain, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
 Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
 Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
 Anwara Khatun
 Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.
 Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
 Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.
 Baduzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
 Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
 Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra
 Biswas, Mr. Bhola Nath

Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
 Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr.
 Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
 Fazlul Karim, Mr.
 Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble
 Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
 Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
 Hafizuddin Choudhury, Mr.
 Hassan Ali, Mr.
 Hatem Ally, Mr.
 Hutchison, Mr.
 Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
 Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah
 Salyid
 Khuda Buksh, Mr. Md.
 Khurram Khan Panee, Mr.
 Luke, Mr.
 Madar Bux, Mr.
 Mahammad Owais, Mr.
 Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
 Majlbar Rahman, Maulvi
 Malik, Dr. A. M.
 Masiuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah), Mr.
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Talyab
 Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
 Muhammad Idris, Maulvi
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.

Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji
 Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed
 Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan
 Bahadur
 Najmul Huq, Mr. Md.
 Nasarulla, Nawabzada K.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
 Nurazzaman, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Parish, Mr. P. E. G. W.
 Powell, Mr. J. A.
 Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan

Ricketts, Mrs. E. M.
 Saim, Mr. S. A.
 Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (alias
 Badesha Mia), Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
 Sharifuddin Ahmad, Mr.
 Stark, Mr. A. F.
 Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
 Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
 Walker, Mr. J. R.
 Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
 Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

NOES—82.

Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
 Bandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
 Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal
 Banerjee, Mr. Suali Kumar
 Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra
 Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
 Bhanderi, Mr. Charu Chandra
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
 Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
 Birsha, Mr. Bir
 Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
 Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
 Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
 Das, Miss Bina
 Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
 Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
 Das, Mr. Radha Nath
 Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra.
 Dass, Mr. Kanailal.
 Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath.
 De, Mr. Kanai Lal.
 Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan.
 Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
 Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
 Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
 Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari.
 Gayen, Mr. Arabinda.
 Ghose, Mr. A. K.
 Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar.

Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra.
 Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra.
 Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan.
 Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand.
 Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra.
 Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra.
 Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
 Majhi, Mr. Nishapati.
 Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati.
 Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
 Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh.
 Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad.
 Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari.
 Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
 Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan.
 Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar.
 Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
 Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath.
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra.
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna.
 Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Roy, Mr. Ram Hari.
 Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath.
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan.
 Sen, Mrs. Ashalata.
 Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath.
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
 Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh.
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra.

The Ayes being 96 and the Noes 62, the motion was carried.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, are you willing to sit late to finish this Bill?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: We have already stated that we do not wish to sit later. We cannot do it. As a matter of fact as I was presiding it was open to me to fix the time. I could have fixed the time at 12 o'clock so that everybody could have come after meals. I fixed 10 o'clock on the distinct understanding that we shall not sit later than 1 o'clock. I beg of you not to continue.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We have no objection.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think I must respect the wishes of the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. The House stands adjourned till 4-30 p.m. on the 10th March.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 1-18 p.m., till 4-30 p.m. on Monday, the 10th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 10th March, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 193 members

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, before we proceed with the business of the House it is my melancholy duty to refer to the death of the Right Hon'ble Sir Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., ex-Governor of Bengal, which was announced in London yesterday, the 9th March, 1947. Educated at Harrow and Cambridge Sir Stanley had served in South Africa in 1900-1902, and in the World War No. I he raised and commanded 27th West Yorks Regiment. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1915 to 1925. He was the Financial Secretary to the War Office in 1922-1923 and was Chairman of the Unionist Party from 1923-1926. He was then appointed and served as Governor of this Province from 1927 to 1932. Sir Stanley Jackson was one of Britain's greatest cricketers and a member of the M.C.C.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel it my duty to send a message of sympathy to the bereaved family and I hope members would signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you ladies and gentlemen, Secretary will take the necessary action.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answers were given)

Supplementaries to Starred Question No. 128 (answered on the 1st March 1947).

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে তাঁর ১নং প্রশ্নের উত্তরে যে লেখা আছে যে কাপড় পাওয়ার সময় সকাল ৯টা হ'তে ১টা ও বিকাল ২ট হ'তে ৪টা এবং শনিবার সকাল ৯টা হ'তে ১২টা। তাহলে যারা অফিসে চাকুরী করেন এবং সেজন্য সকাল বেলা নমস্কার সময় বাড়ী হ'তে বের হয়ে যায় এবং বাড়ী ফিরতে প্রায় সাতটা বাজি বেজে যায়, তারা কাপড় নেবে কি করে? এর কোন ব্যবস্থা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় করবেন কি?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: It has been answered already that from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. it remains open.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: সকাল নয়টা থেকে বাবেচি এবং বিকাল তিনটা থেকে সন্ধ্যা সাতটা পর্যন্ত পোকান পোনা থাকে; কিন্তু বাবা অফিসে চাকুরী করেন, তাঁদের সাপোর্ট: পাঁচটার সময় ভুটি হয়, তারপর তাঁদের বাড়ী ফিরতে প্রায় দুই ঘণ্টা বেগে যায়, তখন তাঁদের পোকানে যাবার সময় থাকে কি না এটা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: The hours actually were found convenient and that is why it has been fixed in this way.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: অভিবিক্ত পুশু স্যার, এখন যে বাংলা দেশে Bengal Time প্রচলিত আছে তাহা উঠাইয়া দিয়া Standard Time করা হবে কিনা ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow this question.

Procurement of ground-nut oil from Madras.

*128A. (SHORT NOTICE). **Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether the quota of ground-nut oil allotted by the Government of Madras to Bengal for the first quarter of 1947 has recently been cancelled by the Madras Government?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

- (i) the reason for such cancellation;
- (ii) the quantity of oil allotted by the Madras Government to Bengal for the first quarter of 1947;
- (iii) what efforts, if any, have been made for the reinstatement of this year's first quarter's quota and the results thereof;
- (iv) what is the machinery adopted by Government for procuring ground-nut oil from Madras; and
- (v) whether any procuring or inspecting agents have been appointed by the Government of Bengal, and if so, their names with amounts allotted to each of them?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (a) No intimation has been received so far from the Madras Government of the cancellation of the quota of ground-nut oil.

(b) (i) to (v) Does not arise.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: অভিবিক্ত পুশু স্যার, মাননীয় মহানিহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে ১৯৪৭ সালের প্রথম কোয়ার্টারে মাদ্রাস প্রদত্ত গাউন্ড-নুট অয়েল কি পরিমাণ কালার ওয়েল দেবার কথা ছিল ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: It has since been decontrolled. If the honourable member wants further clarification and elucidation of the question, I would ask for notice.

Appointments under Civil Supplies Department in Ghatal.

*129. **Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHAMMAD:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules have been followed by the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies of Ghatal, in Midnapore district, regarding—

- (i) all kinds of appointments made by him;
- (ii) appointment of kerosene dealers;
- (iii) appointment of wholesalers and retailers of foodgrains and textiles;
- (iv) appointment of coal dealer; and
- (v) appointment of manure dealer?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the number of Hindus and Muslims in the following cases:—

- (i) wholesalers and retailers both in foodgrains and textiles;
- (ii) dealers of rice, sugar and *atta*;
- (iii) persons receiving permits of corrugated iron sheets;

- (iv) persons receiving special permits for textile goods;
 (v) dealers of coal; and
 (vi) dealers of manure?
 (c) How many appointments have been made by the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Ghatal, since his posting there up till now?
 (d) How many of them are (i) Muslims, and (ii) Hindus?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran): (a) (i) to (iv) The 50/50 ratio has not been observed in Ghatal in the appointment of retailers and wholesalers of foodgrains and other Civil Supply commodities. Such ratio can hardly be maintained in a subdivision where Muslims constitute only 3½ per cent. of the total population.

The Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies is not the appointing authority in respect of any other appointments, such as office staff, etc.

(v) The Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies is not concerned.

	Wholesalers.			Retailers.	
	Hindu.	Muslim.	Bank.	Hindu.	Muslim.
(b) (i) Number of foodgrains dealers (rice and paddy)	4	..	..	46	4
Number of Textile dealers	2	1	..	75	9
(ii) Number of dealers of <i>atta</i> , flour and sugar ..	1	..	2	255	9

[Regarding rice, *vide* (b) (i)].

(iii) Hindus—68 permits (399 bundles).

Muslims—9 permits (48 bundles).

(iv) Hindus—475 permits (30,575 yards).

Muslims—64 permits. (2,355 yards).

(v) Dealer of coal—

Muslim—1.

Hindu—11.

(vi) *Vide* reply to (a) (v).

(c) and (d) The Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Ghatal, has made the following appointments since his posting there:—

	Wholesalers.			Retailers.	
	Hindu.	Muslim.	Bank.	Hindu.	Muslim.
(1) Foodgrains (<i>atta</i> , flour, sugar) ..	1	..	..	9	2
(2) Textiles	2	1	..	..	..
(3) Rice and paddy	4	..	..	5	2

Maulvi MAJIBUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the communal ratio rule is enforced in a district where the Hindus are only 15 per cent.?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: Yes, as far as practicable. The dealerships are generally distributed on fifty fifty basis.

Maulvi MAJIBUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Communal Ratio Rule has not been observed in this particular subdivision.

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: It has already been answered. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, question No. 129 (b) item (iii) কে যে “persons receiving permits for corrugated iron sheets” উল্লেখ ছিল সে সম্বন্ধে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানাবেন কি corrugated iron sheet কেনবার জন্য কোন permit প্রয়োজন হয় কিনা ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: Surely, without permits nobody is entitled to purchase corrugated iron sheets.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি যে এই বাংলা দেশের বীহভূম জেলাতে corrugated iron sheet কেনবার জন্য কোন permitএর প্রয়োজন হয় না।

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am not aware of it.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে উপপলি জাতির ভিতর কোন dealer আছে কি না ? এবং যদি থাকে তাহা কতো ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I have already given the number.

Village and union food committees in Tamluk and Contai subdivisions.

*130. **Mr. RAJANIKANTA PRAMANIK:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department aware—

(i) that village and union food committees in the Tamluk and Contai subdivisions were formed about two years ago;

(ii) that there is a rule that these committees will have their election every year in the month of *Jaistha*; and

(iii) that these committees have not been reconstituted by fresh elections according to rules though more than two prescribed periods have elapsed?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of ordering for immediate re-elections of these committees?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Cofran): (a) (i) Village and union food committees in the Tamluk and Contai subdivisions were formed about three years ago.

(ii) There was such a rule formerly. In February last, however, it was decided that the committees may continue until further orders.

(iii) Some of the committees have been reconstituted. In the Contai subdivision steps are being taken for the general reconstitution of village committees.

(b) The question is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, আগে বলা হয়েছে যে প্রতি বৎসর জৈষ্ঠ মাসে গ্রামা food committeeগুলির election হবে, কিন্তু answerএ দেখা যাচ্ছে যে the food “committees may continue until further orders”.

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: Yes, it is being reconstituted as far as practicable.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, ১৩০নং-এব (a) দফাতে লেখা আছে যে কণ্টাই মহকুমাতে গ্রামা food committee গুলি পুনর্গঠন করবার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে, কিন্তু এ পর্যন্ত এ বিষয় কোন কিছু করা হয়েছে কি না এটা কি তিনি বলতে পারবেন ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: Village Food Committees have not been reconstituted by fresh elections during the last two years in many cases due to the sudden abolition of the Development Department and consequential discharge of the Inspectors of the Development Department who were the authorised officers for villages, it has not been possible to hold elections during this time. In many cases the Inspectors managed to arrange for an election before the Development Department was abolished. Now the Inspectors have been made the authorised officers, and in Contai Subdivision, the Subdivisional Officer is making arrangements for the reconstitution of Village Food Committees.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: অতিবিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, গ্রামা ফুড কমিটিগুলির election বন্ধ সাগায় যে কুফল হতে পারে, সে বিষয় মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় চিন্তা করে দেখেছেন কি ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I have already stated my reasons for withholding the elections of the Food Committees which are now being reconstituted.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অবগত আছেন কি যে মণিও আইনভা: গ্রামা ফুড কমিটিগুলিতে election হয়, তাহাপি Circle Officer এবং Civil Supply Inspector মহাশয় তাঁদের বনমত লোককেই member করেন এবং তাঁদের উপরই ক্ষমতা অর্পণ করেন ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow the question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: অতিবিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, সাংলাব পিঁড়ি জেলায় ফুড কমিটিগুলিতে ভিন্ন ভিন্ন নীতি না করিয়া, এক নীতির দ্বারা পরিচালনা করা সবকাল বাছাদুর উপস্থিত মনে করেন কি ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: It will receive the due consideration of Government.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: অতিবিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, food committeeগুলি তুলে দেবার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ থেকে কোন circular জারী করা হয়েছে কি ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I am not aware of any such circular.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে, পূর্বে যে নিয়ম ছিল ফুড কমিটিগুলি প্রতি বছর পুনর্গঠন করা হবে—কিন্তু বর্তমানে সে নিয়ম পরিবর্তন করার কোন কথা ?

Mr. ESKANDAR ALI KHAN: I have already stated my reasons. I have nothing further to add.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Repair and extension of Munshiganj waterworks in Dacca district.

39. Mr. FAKIR ABDUL MANNAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

- (i) that the waterworks at Munshiganj town in the district of Dacca is almost unworkable and is badly in need of repair and extension;
- (ii) that the Government of Bengal provided money in its budget according to plan and estimate for the repair and extension of the waterworks;
- (iii) that the public of Munshiganj town are experiencing great difficulties for want of pure drinking water; and
- (iv) that cholera, dysentery, typhoid and other epidemics spread in the town and in the suburbs every year?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of making arrangements for the immediate repair and extension of the waterworks?

MINISTER in charge of the HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a)(i) and (ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes, the daily supply is inadequate.

(iv) Mortality figures are not available separately for Munshiganj town which is not a separate municipal area. Figures for Munshiganj thana, however, show that though there was increase in mortality from cholera, dysentery and typhoid in 1943, compared to the period of 1938-42, figures for subsequent years, namely, 1944, 1945 and the first half of 1946, showed considerable improvement compared to the same period, i.e., 1938-42.

(b) A water-supply scheme for Munshiganj was prepared in September, 1939, and finally sanctioned by Government in May, 1941. Contracts were actually placed and necessary provisions made in the budget but work could not be undertaken on account of difficulties in procuring materials during the war. The scheme is now being revised again in terms of the present prices.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি water works-এর কাজ পুনরায় করে হতে আরম্ভ হয়েছে ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as Munshiganj waterworks is concerned, the matter has been considered by Government in May 1941.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: অতিবিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় স্বীকার করেন কি যে question 39 (b)-এর উত্তরের মধ্যে আছে যে "The scheme is now being revised again in terms of the present scheme" সেটা কি ঠিক ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes, it is.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: অতিবিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি এই কাজটা করে শেষ হবে ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Since it was found out that the present prices of material and the cost of labour have gone up, Government has been forced to revise the scheme.

Increase of basic pay of inferior Government servants.

40. Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Establishment) Department be pleased to state the minimum basic pay of an inferior servant under the Government at present?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the inferior Government servants' basic pay is going to be increased?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when a remedy can be expected in this direction?

MINISTER in charge of the CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) The minimum basic pay of an establishment menial is Rs. 13 per mensem. The minimum pay of a contingency menial is however Rs. 12 per mensem.

(b) The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

(c) The result of the general revision of pay scales is likely to be published by the end of March next. The revised rates will be given effect to from 1st January, 1947.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মাননীয় মহা মহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি যে menials-এ বর্তমানে মাত্র ১৬ টাকা বেতন পায় তাতে তাদের খেয়ে পরে বেঁচে থাকে না ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No. It is not sufficient for them.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মাননীয় মহা মহাশয় বলবেন কি যদি menials-দের এই টাকা বেঁচে থাকবার পক্ষে যথেষ্ট না হয় তাহলে তাদের মাইনে বাড়ানোর কোন পরিকল্পনা গভর্নমেন্টের আছে কি না ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The matter is being considered by Government. An officer has been appointed to go into the question.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মাননীয় মহা মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি কত দিনের মধ্যে এই সম্পর্কে নিশ্চিত সিদ্ধান্ত করা হবে ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: If the honourable member refers to my answer to question (c), the result of the general revision of pay scales is likely to be published by the end of March next.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় মহা মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি গভর্নমেন্টের সর্বোচ্চ কর্মচারীর বেতন কত ?

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not come within the purview of this question.

41. Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Establishment) Department be pleased to state the minimum basic pay of an inferior servant under the Government at present?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the inferior Government servants' basic pay is going to be increased?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when a remedy can be expected in this direction?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) to (c) The honourable member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 40.

Alleged misconduct of Subdivisional Officer, Bishnupur.

42. Dr. SYED MUHAMMAD SIDDIQUE: (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (General Administration) Department aware of the facts that the Subdivisional Officer of Vishnupur insulted a Mukhtear in his court and registered clerk of a Mukhtear was pulled by his ear by a constable at the order of the Subdivisional Officer in the court?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) The Subdivisional Officer, Bishnupur, did ask a Mukhtear to leave his court for certain objectionable conduct of his, while the Subdivisional Officer was engaged in judicial proceedings in his court.

Answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(b) No.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহা মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে বিষ্ণুপুরের একজন মোজারকে কান ধরে বেব করে দিয়েছেন এটা সত্য কি ?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I have nothing to add to what we have said in the reply.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: প্রশ্নের মধ্যে আছে যে S. D. O. একজন মোজারকে তাঁহার কোর্ট হতে কনষ্টেবল দ্বারা কান ধরে বেব করে দিয়েছেন--এটা সত্য কি না

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Will you please repeat the question?

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: এ সম্বন্ধে কোন রিপোর্ট দেওয়া হয়েছে কিনা ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: For the reply to that part of the question I would request the honourable member to look into the last sentence of the printed answer.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: কান মলে দেওয়া সম্বন্ধে কিছু রিপোর্টে আছে কিনা ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The District Magistrate talked over the matter with the President and Secretaries of the Bar Library and the matter has been treated as closed.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: প্রশ্নের ভিতর আছে যে S. D. O. of Bishunpur insulted a Mukhtear in his Court and registered clerk of a Mukhtear was pulled by his ear by a constable at the order of the S. D. O. in the Court কিন্তু প্রশ্নের উত্তরে constableকে কান ধরে বের করে দেওয়ার আদেশ দেওয়া হয়েছে কি না তাহা বলা হয় নাই। এ সম্বন্ধে কোন রিপোর্ট লওয়া হয়েছে কি না ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Now that the matter has been treated as closed by all persons concerned I am not in a position to state anything more.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহা মহাশয় বলবেন কি এ সম্বন্ধে কোন অনুসন্ধান করা হয়েছে কি ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have already said that the answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: মহা মহাশয় বলবেন কি মোক্তারদের তাঁদের এই ধরনের উপদেশ মেনে চলতে বাধ্য কিনা ?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: He was disturbing the normal proceedings of the Court.

Jute cultivation in Midnapore district.

43. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the acres under jute cultivation in the district of Midnapore separately for each subdivision;
- (ii) the amount spent annually to superintend the restriction of the same per subdivision; and
- (iii) whether it is a fact that jute is not produced properly in the saline affected lands of Contai and Tamluk subdivisions?

(b) If the reply to (a)(iii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of stopping the superintendence of restriction of jute for at least 10 years to allow the cultivators to produce jute by experiment in different soils for consumption in the locality?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (a) The year for which acreage is asked for has not been mentioned. The basic acreage is as follows:—

			Acres.
(i) Sadar.	...	...	2,374.59
Jhargram	...	...	242.14
Contai	...	...	5,303.54
Tamluk	...	...	12,199.04
Ghatal	...	...	8,273.66
			Rs.
(ii) Sadar	...	...	6,244
Jhargram	...	...	4,804
Contai	...	...	26,980
Tamluk	...	...	36,760
Ghatal	...	...	16,304

(iii) If land liable to salt water inundation is meant the reply is in the affirmative, but this represents a small proportion of the area of these subdivisions and jute can be grown on most of the other areas.

(b) No. Subject to overall restriction there is nothing under the present system to prevent a cultivator choosing whichever plot he likes for growing jute. In fact during the last four years cultivators did not utilise the licensed acreage in full.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে জায়গায় চাষীরা License পেয়েও চাষ করতে চায় না বা ভাল ফল হয় না সেখানে গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ হতে চাষ কমানোর প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে কি?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The whole difficulty was that this decrease in cultivation was due to abnormal circumstances on account of rise of prices of paddy and other causes. The Jute Regulation scheme has been devised mainly to meet normal circumstances. That was something abnormal and with the relaxation of control of jute prices Jute Regulation was again coming to be a real problem. Therefore Government do not consider the desirability of doing away with the project.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: অতিরিক্ত প্রণয় সারি, মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে দেশে এত বাসগৃহসমূহের অভাব সেখানে এত একর জমি চাষের অনুপযুক্ত করে রাখা হচ্ছে কেন?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government do not consider it necessary.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় বলবেন কি ১৯৪২ সালে যে সাময়িক বন্যা হয়েছিল তার ফলে পুরো যে সমস্ত জায়গায় পাট চাষ হোত সে সমস্ত জায়গায় এখন আর পাট চাষ করা যাচ্ছে না?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: May be.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় বলবেন কি সে সমস্ত জায়গার পরিবর্তে নতুন জায়গায় পাট চাষ করার জন্য যে সমস্ত আবেদন করা হয়েছে তা নাকোচ করে দেওয়া হয়েছে কেন?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় এটা কি সত্য মনে করেন যে ১৯৪২ সালের বন্যার কথা চিন্তা করে সেখানে কিছুদিনের জন্য পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণ-ব্যবস্থা প্রত্যাহার করবেন?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No, Government do not contemplate to withdraw it.

Establishment of a special veterinary dispensary near village Mahimaganj, Gaibandha.

44. Mr. S. K. ACHARYA: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Department be pleased to state—

(i) what special schemes and appointments were introduced and made in connection with agricultural and veterinary administration during the year—

(1) 1944-45, and

(2) 1946-47

in Kishoreganj and Gaibandha subdivisions; and

(ii) whether it is a fact that a special veterinary dispensary is being set up at or near the village Mahimaganj in Gaibandha subdivision of Rangpur district?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it was in public interest to locate the dispensary at that place?

(c) Is there any other such veterinary dispensary in any other place outside the district towns and subdivisional towns of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: (a)(i) (1) Nil.

(2) A special sugarcane development staff has been posted in all sugar factory areas including Kishoreganj since 1945-46. Two posts of itinerant veterinary assistants have been sanctioned, one for Kishoreganj and the other for Mahimaganj in Gaibandha.

(ii) Yes.

(b) Yes. For many years there was a veterinary dispensary at Mahimaganj under the District Board. This was closed for want of funds, but has recently been revived as a Government dispensary, owing to frequent outbreaks of cattle diseases in the locality.

(c) Yes; at 36 other centres.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: অতিবিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি অবগত আছেন যে বাংলার সর্গুত্রই গো-মড়ক ভোগে আছে ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Adhikari, I think you used to speak in English up till now. I have noticed definitely that those who are sufficiently acquainted with the English language are also speaking in Bengali today. Probably they have got the ruling of Mr. Mavlankar in view but I should point out that in that very ruling he has pointed out that the restriction which has been put in the Act of 1935 is not present in the Act of 1919. So what is possible in the Central Assembly is not possible in the Provincial Assembly. I shall not therefore allow those who already used English language to speak in Bengali.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমি বাংলার বলতে চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: I realise, it is convenient to speak in Bengali. I very much like that the provincial language should be used, but so far as the Act is concerned I am bound to interpret it in the sense in which it has been used in the Statute. So, Mr. Adhikari, you have spoken in English language on several occasions very fluently and you know English very well. So I would request you to use the English language.

The Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed: I do not think the shorthand writers will be able to take down sufficiently.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: আমার ইংরাজী বলতে যথেষ্ট অভাব। হয়

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly speak in English?

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, ইংরাজীতে বলা আমার পক্ষে অনেক অসুবিধা আছে। কাজেকাভেই আমাকে বাংলায় বলতে দিন। ইংরাজীতে আমি আমার মনোভাব ভালভাবে প্রকাশ করতে পারি না।

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you admit that so long you used English and not a single Bengali word? That will be borne out by the proceedings.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: মিঃ শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমার সামান্য একটা নিবেদন আছে। ১৯৪৮ সালের জুন মাসে ইংরাজবা ভারতবর্ষ হতে চলে যাচ্ছেন। আমার নিবেদনটা যদি একটু পোনেন তাহলে বিশেষ ক্তর হই।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, you are also following the suit.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, আমার নিবেদন যদি এখানে না পোনেন তাহলে আপনার চেহাৰে আমার এই নিবেদন জানাতে হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question of sentiment.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: তাহলে আপনার বাস কামরায় আমার সেই নিবেদনটা পরিষ্কার করে জানাব যদি এখানে তাহা ওনতে আপনার কোন আপত্তি থাকে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us decide once for all in what language you will speak but in making your submission I hope you will use English language now.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, এর ভিতর একটা বিশেষ কথা আছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope, Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, you will use English. Let us come to a decision and then all of us can talk in Bengali.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমাদের মাতৃভাষা বাংলা, আমাদের বাংলায় বলতে দিন।

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, তাহা হলে আমার আবেদনটা আপনার বাস কামরায় সবিনয়ে জানাতে পারি কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: If you want to throw out the Act of 1935 into the Ganges, that is a different matter, but you should be prepared for throwing out the Act in all respects, for all purposes, so that nobody can take recourse to the Act, and everybody can go on in his own way as he chooses to do without having any regard or respect for the Act under which this House has been constituted, under which the honourable members are here and under which the honourable members have acquired rights and privileges as members of the Assembly. Let us not treat this Act as a scrap of paper and throw it in the Ganges.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, তাহলে আমি আপনার বাস কামরাতে আমার নিবেদনটা জানাব।

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I have expressed my views already. I would request you—let us this day use the English language and then we shall decide the matter if necessary in a conference, and then we shall go on.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, এটা ঠিক কথা, কিন্তু এখন ইংরাজবা ভারতবর্ষ হতে চলে যাচ্ছে। ১৯৩৫ সালে তাঁরা ভারতবর্ষ ত্যাগ করে যাবার অভিপ্রায় ব্যক্ত করেন নাই, কিন্তু আজকে যখন ইংরাজবা ভারতবর্ষ হতে চলে যাবার একটা তারিখ নির্ধারণ করেছেন তখন আর আমার ইংরাজী বলব কাদের জন্য? হুতরাং এখন যদি-আপনি একটু কৃপা করে অনুমতি দেন তাহলে আমার নিবেদনটা একটু জানাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: None of the members has probably gone through that ruling. In that ruling Mr. Mavlankar has made his point perfectly clear and has supported the views that I am holding.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, তাহলে আমি আপনার খাস কারারাতে গিয়ে আমার যা কিছু বলবার আছে বলব।

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir—

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমার বক্তব্য হচ্ছে...

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I don't think I can give you any more time.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. It is laid down in the Government of India Act, 1935, section 85, that all proceedings in the Legislature of a province shall be conducted in the English language.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, যদি কোন সভার ইংরাজী ভাষায় ব্যুৎপত্তি না থাকে তাহলে আপনি তাকে যে কোন ভাষায় বলতে অনুমতি দিতে পারেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: The language is very clear and simple. Everybody understands it.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমি এই কথাই বলতে চাই যদি কোন সভায় ইংরাজী ভাষায় সম্যকরূপে ব্যুৎপত্তি না থাকে তাহলে তাঁকে বাংলায় বলতে দেওয়া উচিত। আমি যখন 5th classএ পড়তাম তখন হতে আরি একটি একটি করে ইংরাজী শিখতে থাকি, কিন্তু এখন Assemblyতে এসে দেখছি যে এখনও ইংরাজী ভাষা সম্পূর্ণরূপে আয়ত্ত্ব করিতে পারি নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: No more argument.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, আপনার কাছে আমার নিবেদন যে, যখন Actএ আছে যে কেউ ইংরাজীতে বলতে না পারলে তাঁকে তাঁর মাতৃভাষায় বলতে দেওয়া হবে তখন আমাদেরও বাংলায় বলতে দেওয়া উচিত।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Haque, what is your point of order?

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Sir, my point of order is that according to the provisions of section 85 of the Government of India Act it is mandatory that any person knowing the English language must speak in English in the Assembly. So my submission is that what my honourable friend Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar has said should be expunged from the proceedings, because that is not in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, যঁরা ইংরাজীতে মনোভার ভালভাবে ব্যক্ত করতে পারেন না তাঁদের বাংলায় বলতে দিন। যঁরা এতদিন ইংরাজীতে বলেছেন এবং এখন বাংলায় বলতে চান, তাঁদের বাধা দেওয়া উচিত নয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: If a member is not sufficiently acquainted with the English language or he does not know English he is at liberty to speak in any other language as provided in the Act. But if a member knows the English language and has been using that language not only for one or two years but for several years and for more than a decade I do not think it lies in his mouth to come one day and refer to Mr. Mavlankar's observation.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: আপনি ও বাংলায় বলতে আবদ্ধ করুন।

Mr. SPEAKER: That is my surmise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: শ্রীকার মহোদয় সভায় ইংরাজী ভাষায় আমরা আমাদের মনের ভাব ভালভাবে প্রকাশ করতে পারি না। তাছাড়া বিদেশী ভাষায় বলতে গেলে আমাদের মনের অনেক বেশী লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Unfortunately there is a coincidence.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: স্পীকার মহোদয়, আপনার বিচারে হয়ত এটা ভাল হতে পারে, কিন্তু আমি বলব আমি ভাল ইংরাজী বলতে পারি না। এ বিচার ভাল আমার উপর এবং এ বিষয়ে আমার মত আপনার নেওয়া উচিত এবং আমাকে বাংলায় বলতে দেওয়া উচিত।

Mr. SPEAKER: That will prove an unstable state of mind.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I appreciate the expression used by my friend Mr. Nibarendu Dutt-Mazumdar. Bengali is my mother tongue as everybody knows. My friends on the Opposition know it very well that when I go outside and speak to a gathering I speak in Bengali just as my friends sitting over there do. I am one of those who would very much like to speak in Bengali because in that language we can express ourselves more fully. (Applause.) But that is not the question. The law and the rules which this House has made have got to be changed first. If honourable members want to change the rules they can do so and then we can decide this matter. Members of this House have made the Rules of Procedure and you know very well that Bengali reporters over there are very few in number.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: সেটা বড়ই লজ্জার বিষয়।

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: May be "লজ্জার বিষয়।" Therefore from the point of view of convenience it is necessary that you should speak in English so that your questions and speeches can be properly recorded; and unless definite notice is given and until the Speaker arranges properly for Bengali reporters I do not understand how the business of the House can go on if you all speak in Bengali. I would ask for the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition on this point. After that if my friends opposite decide to speak in Bengali we have nothing to say against that, but under the rules that you have made only those who are not sufficiently conversant with English are to be allowed to speak in Bengali and not others. I would request the Leader of the Opposition not to create something like a disorder here. The rules are there which have been made by you and must be observed by you. If you want to change the rules to give facilities to every member to speak in Bengali we have no objection to that, and in that case I would myself like to speak in Bengali. But it cannot be done just at the moment.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি এইদিকে আপনার সমালোচনা একটু আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। এই পরিষদে অনেক সভা বাংলা পূর্ণ ইংরাজীতে বলতেন, তাঁরা আত্মকান বাংলায় বলে থাকেন, যেমন ডাঃ কুবেরচন্দ্র বানার্জি, মিঃ হরিপদ চ্যাটার্জি পূর্ণ অসংকলিত ইংরাজীতে বলতেন কিন্তু এখন বাংলায় বলেন। ডাঃ মালেক যিনি বিলাত থেকে ফিরে এসেছেন এবং আমরা মনে করতে পারি যে, তিনি ভাল-ভালোই ইংরাজী বলতে পারেন, এবং আমরা মনে হয় তিনি পূর্ণ ইংরাজীতেই বক্তৃতা করতেন, তিনিও এখন বাংলায় বলছেন। কাজেই যে রুল আছে বলতেন সেটা তুলে দিতে হয়েছে। আমাদের সহকারী নেতা এ বিষয়ে আপনাকে ভালভাবে জানিয়েছেন যে, আমরা ভালভাবে ইংরাজী বলতে পারি কিনা এবং সেটা আমাদের মতের উপর নির্ভর করছে।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: স্পীকার মহোদয়, মাইকেল মধুসূদন দত্তের মত ইংরাজী জানা লোক সেকালে খুব কমই ছিল। প্রথম বয়সে তিনি ইংরাজী ভাষা চাড়া কথাই বলতেন না। তারপর শেষ বয়সে ইংরাজী ছেড়ে তিনি বাংলা ভাষাতেই তাঁর সমস্ত কাজ আরম্ভ করেন। ততরাং আমরাও যদি পূর্ণ ইংরাজী বলে থাকি তাহলেও আমাদের একঘেে বাংলায় বলতে দিন।

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: On a point of privilege, Sir; মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয় যে বলতেন যে, এই পরিষদে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক বাংলা রিপোর্টার নাই কিন্তু আমি এই বিষয়ে গভীর ব্যর্থতার আপনাকে বৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছিলাম এবং তিনি আশুপাশ দিয়েছিলেন তিনি এ বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থা করবেন কিন্তু দেখা যাচ্ছে যে, এত পর্য্যন্ত এ বিষয়ে কোন ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই। বাংলা ভাষাকে অবহেলা করা হয়েছে। আমরা মতে যে সমস্ত ইংরাজ এখানে বসে আছেন তাঁরাও বাংলায় বলতে আরম্ভ করুন।

মহাশা গাখী, রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর সবচেয়ে ভাল ইংরাজী জানা সত্ত্বেও তাঁরা নিজের মাতৃভাষা ছাড়া বিদেশী কোন ভাষাই সাধারণতঃ ব্যবহার করেন নাই। এই কথা মনে রেখে আশা করি আপনি সকলকে বাংলায় বলতে পেরবেন।

MR. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমরা বাংলায় বলতে চাই কারণ অন্য ভাষায় আমরা আমাদের মনের ভাব ভাল ভাবে ব্যক্ত করতে পারি না।

MR. SPEAKER: I think the best course would be to come to a decision after discussion with the leaders of different parties and before we come to a decision let us continue the existing practice. I feel only one difficulty, and that is about interpreting the Statute according to your choice, because I have got to interpret it in a reasonable and sensible way, so that it may be accepted as correct interpretation. Unfortunately the language is very very emphatic there. You are under two difficulties. One difficulty is that I cannot take the responsibility of including all your Bengali questions, supplementary questions and speeches in the proceedings because there is a shortage of Bengali shorthand writers. The second difficulty is that if everybody is left to choose his language on each occasion we shall not be surprised if some day Mr. Mohammed Ali makes his budget speech in Persian or Arabic as I cannot stop him. (Laughter from Congress benches.) If members are left to choose their own language without having any reference to the Statute and to the Rules made by this House under the provisions of the Statute, any member may choose to speak in whatever language he likes and I cannot stop him if he speaks in Arabic or Hebrew.

MR. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE : কেউ উদ্ভূত বনবেন বলে সেই ভয়ে আমরা বাংলায় বলতে পারব না ?

MR. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY : শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমাদের মাতৃভাষা যখন বাংলা, তখন আমাদের বাংলায় বলতে অনুমতি দিন।

MR. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, speaking from this side of the House (cries of "why in English again?" from the Government benches)—I am speaking in English out of deference to the wishes of the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will not misunderstand us and think that in raising this issue we are trying to obstruct the proceedings of the House. Far from it. We have come to a stage when we have to decide in which language we shall speak here, and it is the unanimous desire of this side of the House—and I believe this is shared by a large number of members of the other side—that we should speak in our mother tongue. So far as Urdu is concerned, we are prepared to concede that Urdu may be the mother tongue of some members of this House, but there is no reason why we should speak in English. Speaking personally I feel great difficulty in expressing myself in English. As a matter of fact—I find Mr. Mohammed Ali is laughing—I was sent abroad at an early age and I tried to learn English at a great expense, but I am ashamed to confess that I have not learnt much English. (Voices of "You are speaking English quite well" and laughter from the Government benches.) Sir, this is a serious matter. It is not a matter for laughter. We want to impress on you the desirability of using our mother tongue in this House. I understood you to say that you would call a conference of the leaders of different parties to discuss this matter. We accept that procedure and in the meantime we shall continue to speak as we were doing before.

MR. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is an outbreak of cattle disease throughout the province?

MR. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of it.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government will consider the desirability of establishing one hospital in each thana?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government will consider the matter.

New appointments in Agriculture Department.

45. Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

- (a) how many new appointments were made in this department since 24th April to 31st July, 1946;
- (b) the number of them that have been given to candidates of—
 - (i) Rangpur, and
 - (ii) Bogra districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: (a) Seventy-five. (The figure indicates the appointments in the Secretariat of the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries and in the Directorates attached to the Department.)

(b) (i) Four, and (ii) Two.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Prohibition Scheme in Bengal.

131. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to state—

- (a) what is the total amount of success attained in the execution of the scheme of prohibition pursued by the Bengal Government ever since the introduction of Provincial Autonomy in 1937;
- (b) in which districts of Bengal the scheme is now being followed;
- (c) whether the Government have any comprehensive scheme to make it effective throughout Bengal;
- (d) if so, whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to lay a detailed outline of it before the House;
- (e) whether the Government have made any enquiry as to how the Madras Government is proceeding with the execution of the prohibition scheme;
- (f) if so, by whom and when the enquiry was made, and what is the conclusion derived at as a result thereof; and
- (g) if not, whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to make such an enquiry at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (a) The success of the experiment of introducing partial prohibition adopted from time to time since 1937, is encouraging.

(b) The experiment is being carried on in the district of Noakhali, and in specified areas of the districts of Tippera and Chittagong. It will be extended to the entire district of Bakarganj from the 1st April, 1947.

(c) and (d) Total prohibition is the goal aimed at. The policy at present pursued by Government is to promote prohibition by upgrading of

taxation and gradual abolition of shops on the recommendation of the Excise Licensing Boards which are manned largely by representatives of public bodies and of the public in general.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) It is not considered necessary at present.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that receipt under "country spirits" has increased from 1943-44 to 1946-47 by about rupees fifty lakhs—it being Rs. 2,04,52,000 in 1943-44 and Rs. 2,50,00,000 in 1946-47?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I have not got the figures, but I think the honourable member is not quite correct. It is a fact that receipts from the sale of country liquor increased during the war period because of the presence of a large number of soldiers in the province, but receipts have fallen after the military personnel have left; so the answer to the honourable member is in the negative.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consult the Red Book and let me know whether the figures given therein showing receipts under "country spirit" from 1943-44 up till 1946-47 are correct? I think that if these figures are correct then my submission that the receipt under "country spirit" has increased from 1943-44 to 1946-47 is correct, absolutely correct.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I have not got the Red Book with me, but the fact is that we are not expecting any increment of revenue from the sale of liquor, because we expected that there would be a fall actually because the large number of soldiers who were in this province have since left. There was certainly an increase from pre-war receipts during the war period, but it is gradually declining.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether receipts from hemp and other drugs have increased from 52,25,000 in 1943-44 to Rs. 1,00,00,000 in 1946-47?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is supplying information and not asking for information.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: He is speaking of hemp and other drugs, while I was answering about country liquor.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how can he say that the result of the experiment has been encouraging?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I said encouraging because we have tried it in several districts and we found that we have been able to control the sale of country liquor in those areas. There is no illicit distilling, or illicit trafficking in illicit liquor and that is why we have said that it has been successful and it has been received well by the public and they appreciate the introduction of prohibition in those districts. I did not say that is successful from the revenue point, as Government have lost revenue due to the introduction of prohibition. I said in my answer (c) and (d) that Government have been upgrading the prices of these liquors, opium and ganja, as a sort of resort to make it more difficult for the people to indulge in this kind of habit.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any country liquor shop has been abolished by Government in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes Sir. The honourable member who comes from the district of Tippera, knows that we have not made the whole district dry, but we have made the areas contiguous to the district of Noakhali dry.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether any country liquor shop has been abolished in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, I have already said, in areas contiguous to the district of Noakhali.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many liquor shops have been abolished?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which area?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have stated in the areas which are contiguous to the district of Noakhali.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say if any survey was undertaken of drunkenness and other social evils arising out of the consumption of liquor in the district of Bakerganj before it was decided to introduce prohibition?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No. The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any survey has ever been carried out in this province to ascertain the areas in which drunkenness or other bad effects of the consumption of liquor, occur?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: As far as I am aware no survey has ever been made, but there may have been some years back of which I am not aware.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of conducting a survey?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. That is a very good suggestion; Government will certainly undertake a survey. It will be very helpful to Government in implementing its policy of prohibition in areas where the evil is great.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: From the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister we see that during these last ten years, prohibition experiment is being carried on only in the four districts in East Bengal. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether we can expect Government to carry on this experiment in any of the districts of West Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: If there is a demand from any of the districts of West Bengal, Government will only be too glad to introduce the experiment in that district.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if prohibition of illicit extraction is the only step that has been taken by Government to introduce prohibition, or does it come under the normal activities of the police in the exercise of Excise regulations?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: By prohibition we mean prohibition of sale of liquor and prevention of illicit trafficking in liquor in areas declared dry.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have allowed any new liquor shops to be opened throughout Bengal during this period?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I do not know. As I have already stated in my reply that we have got Excise Licensing Boards for Calcutta and for districts, and these Boards are constituted by representatives of public bodies and non-official gentlemen, and if any fresh shop has to be licensed then it is done by the Licensing Board. And Government have made it clear that Government do not want that any new shop should be licensed. As far as I believe this policy of Government has been followed by the Licensing Boards.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, my question was that if prohibition is the goal aimed at, is it or is it not the Government policy to prevent the opening of new shops before the existing shops are abolished. If that is so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any direction has been given to the Excise Board to prevent the opening of new shops?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that one of the policies of this Government is that no new shop should be licensed, and this has been circularised to all Licensing Boards and it is my firm belief that this policy is being carried into effect by the Licensing Boards.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has any positive information in this matter or he is relying on his firm belief?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: If I had any positive information I would have said so. It is my firm belief that the Licensing Boards are implementing the Government's policy as laid down in this Circular.

Adjournment motion.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I gave notice of two adjournment motions—one on the murder of villagers in Jalpaiguri by the Police and the other is on the murder of villagers in Sandeskhali.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which of the adjournment motions you want to press?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: The first one, that is, on Jalpaiguri incident where five people were murdered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable members who would support this motion will please rise in their seats.

(As less than the requisite number rose.)

Leave refused.

Point of Order.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. In regard to the supplementary estimates and their form of presentation I should like to make two submissions. My first submission is in regard to the form in which the estimates have been brought in in this House after the expenditure to which the estimates relate have already been incurred either in part or in whole. This point of order was raised on more than one occasion by Dr. Sanyal during the life of the last Assembly, and I am afraid threatens to become a hardy annual. As sums have already been spent,

they should not come under the category of estimates. Such expenditure should come for ratification before the House through the Public Accounts Committee by means of a motion for excess grant. I submit that Section 81 of the Government of India Act does not permit incurred expenditure to be brought in as estimates because the rules provide that the same rules as apply to the Budget estimate should also apply to the form of presentation of supplementary estimates. I may state here the following rulings and observations by the Chair on different occasions. On 16th March, 1929, President Patel in the Central Assembly ruled that incurred expenditure cannot be brought in as estimates. On the 28th February 1944 the Deputy Speaker observed in this House to the following effect. "Now it is for Mr. Speaker to decide whether by any stretch of imagination expenditure in excess of the sum already demanded for the current financial year can be construed as estimates, especially when the amount of such expenditure is mixed up with supplementary estimates. In my view this interpretation cannot be possible in any other country than in India where it has become possible under the garb of usual practice." On the 6th March, 1945, the Speaker observed in this House to the following effect "The point raised—which was raised by Dr. Sanyal—is of great importance. Speaking for myself I have not been able to give that much attention to the subject that it deserves, but from a cursory glance at the provisions of the law and rules, it appears to me to be perfectly clear that the law never contemplated inclusion of incurred expenditure in supplementary estimates, but the practice has been going on somewhat irregularly for some time." In view of the irregular practice in vogue, the Speaker of course allowed the motion but added that he would give definite instructions for future guidance. Unfortunately, this definite instruction was not given. What I would request you is this: Even if you in view of the anomalous situation that has obtained in the past—if you allow these estimates to be moved in the present form which, I say is irregular, I would urge upon you to give definite directions for future guidance. This has become imperative in view of certain observations which the Finance Minister made in the course of his reply to the general discussion about the general character of budget estimates. The Finance Minister had said "So far as supplementary estimates are concerned, it is not possible to present supplementary budget estimates as soon as we incur expenditure, because in that case we shall have to present supplementary estimates more than once or twice." This observation I am afraid betrays the ignorance of the Finance Minister about the essence and function of Budget and supplementary estimates. I can do no better to explain that than to quote from Durell from his book on Parliamentary Grants and this is what Durell says: "It is a sound principle that one, and only one, estimate of national expenditure should be laid before Parliament during each session: for to render parliamentary control effectual it is necessary that the House of Commons should have the money transactions of the year presented to it in one mass and one account. Except for sudden unexpected and urgent demands the budget estimate, both of revenue and expenditure, is one which the House of Commons has a right to expect should be realised in the eventual facts. It is on that estimate alone that the Chancellor of the Exchequer induces the House to agree to the financial policy proposed by him and embodied in the Budget. The introduction of any supplementary estimates by any considerable amount is really a breach of contract between Parliament and Government for when this is done the budget statement is destroyed and in effect a supplementary budget is set up. Supplementary estimates when treated as customary and as a matter of course instead of being restricted to occasions of unforeseen contingencies do more to destroy effectual parliamentary control than any other indirect method that could be devised." This is what the Finance Minister proposes to do and what has been going on in this Province from year to year. The Finance Minister, if he so chooses, can play ducks and drakes with his own money but certainly not with the money of the public. It is essential that the original budget

estimates should be as accurate as possible. If these estimates should prove inadequate for any unforeseen reason, he should bring in supplementary estimates in the proper fashion. If thereafter his estimates should go wrong, then the position should be regularised by means of a motion for excess grant after scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee. That is why, Sir, I urge upon you to give your definite directions in this matter for future guidance.

My second submission is an even more important one.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose: Will you take a long time?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I will take four minutes. My second submission is even more important and relates to grants 20 and 22 in respect of heads of grants Nos. 37 and 38 respectively. I submit that these grants are improper and irregular and cannot be allowed to be brought before this House. My reasons therefor are based on the ground on which according to parliamentary practice supplementary estimates can be brought before the Legislature. According to Durell whom I have already quoted a supplementary estimate may be presented either (1) for a further grant to a service already sanctioned and voted for, or (2) for a grant for a further occasion of expenditure arising since the estimates were presented (a) for expenditure newly imposed on the executive by statute and (b) to meet unexpected emergency.

I submit, Sir, that grants Nos. 20 and 22 do not come within the purview of any of these possibilities. They do not constitute a further grant to a service already sanctioned and voted for. They are not necessary either to meet expenditure newly imposed on the executive by Statute or to meet an unexpected emergency. A supplementary estimate for the purpose of paragraphs 2 and 9 of Standing Order No. 14 of the House of Commons for a new service or a new matter and must be intended to meet either of these two contingencies. The provision of funds for the building up of Muslim Education is not required for expenditure newly imposed on the executive by Statute nor is it for the purposes of meeting an unexpected emergency. There is yet another gross irregularity in respect of Demand No. 22. A new head has been created, namely, K-Miscellaneous for advancement of education of Muslims. This expenditure, I submit, Sir, has nothing to do with the Medical Department, is not relevant to it, and cannot be brought under this general head. This expenditure pertains to the Education Demand and, if necessary, could only have been provided for under the Education grant in the usual form.

I need hardly impress upon you the absolute necessity for the strictest enforcement of all rules and healthy conventions which have for their object the attainment of full legislative control of all financial matters that come within the competence of such legislature. Thus, you know, is one of the essential and fundamental safeguards of democratic institutions. I am not concerned for the moment with the merits of the grants in question. That is really beside the point. What I am concerned with is that any grant for whatever purposes it may be brought forward must be presented in a proper form and be in accordance with the established parliamentary practice. Grants Nos. 20 and 22 of the Supplementary Estimates do not satisfy these conditions and therefore, I submit, they must not be allowed to be moved. Those are my submissions, Sir.

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, may I make a few observations on the point of order that has been raised by the honourable member representing the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, if you have got any new point.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes, Sir, I have got new points to place before you.

My submission is that if you look into the supplementary estimates you will find that certain new expenditure for new services have been introduced which, I submit, are quite irregular. It has been definitely stated in May's Parliamentary Practice that supplementary estimates due to the insufficiency of the original estimates are to be placed and voted upon at the earliest opportunity and that they should, if possible, be presented before the presentation or voting on the demands for grants for the year as they enter into the figures for the expenditure for the current year. That is my first point. The point is quite clear. Before the accounts are published for the current year and before the estimates for the next year are published, supplementary estimates should come to the House and get the sanction of the House. The principle involved is that whenever the Ministry thinks that the budget estimates are not sufficient to cover the expenditure for the current year they should make no delay to convene a session and come to the legislature for authorisation of the supplementary estimates. If that right is not exercised by the House then there is no meaning of parliamentary control over executive action. That is the first principle involved, and that is why it is enjoined that before the estimates for the next year are published the supplementary estimates should come before the House. In this case I submit the supplementary estimates have reached the members not before but after the estimates for the next year have been published and that is my first point.

The second point is that if supplementary estimates are necessary due to decisions of policy—and here I am again quoting from the 14th Edn. of May—in that case also supplementary estimates should on the first available occasion come to the House for ratification of that policy. I urge, Sir, that some of the demands that have been presented before the House have become necessary, not because they reveal insufficiency in original estimates but because of new decisions of policy. For instance, the heads referred to by the honourable member representing the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, namely, the heads 20 and 22. I would like to add to that list “80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme.” That is a completely new capital head introduced in the budget and that is a very big thing that is going to be introduced,—if I may be permitted to use that word, I must say—surreptitiously introduced into the budget. And, Sir, this ought to have been included in the original estimates or ought to have been included in the main estimates of the next year that have been presented to the House. If in this way these new things which have become necessary because of decisions of policy come in the shape of supplementary estimates and come at a time when the expenditure had been already incurred, then I submit there is no meaning in presenting the supplementary estimates before the House. The principles, as I understand them, are that not only the parliament should exercise close control over the expenditure that the executive might incur, but, Sir, the parliament must see to it that the policy enunciated by it is closely followed by the executive and not deviated from. It is quite irregular for the executive to incur fresh expenditure because of new decision of policy without previous ratification and sanction of the House, and, as such, the heads included in the supplementary estimates are irregular and, if passed, will gag the House and therefore should not have been included in the list of supplementary estimates.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I do not want to go into the reasonableness or otherwise of the practice hitherto followed for presenting the supplementary estimates after the expenses are incurred. The fact remains that this practice has been followed all along and we have only been observing the practice that the legislature has sanctioned since this legislature has been established. I agree that the expenditure after they

are incurred should be presented to the House as soon as possible and also I agree that the supplementary estimates should be presented only when there has been expenditure on account of unforeseen circumstances or contingencies. But the House will also remember that last year when we presented the budget, it was a budget more or less modelled on the budget which was prepared by His Excellency the Governor during the Section 93 regime and at that time we could not formulate all our policies and I made it clear to the House at that time when we presented the budget estimates that we had generally made some revision in the schemes that were adopted during Section 93 regime, but we are continuing our process of examination and we hoped that we would come forward with our complete schemes in the near future. I did give this warning to the House when we presented to the House the budget estimates for the year 1946-47.

Now, so far as the objections regarding some new heads are concerned, I would like to inform the House that in the matter of the creation of a fund for Muslim Education, this was done in implementation of a resolution adopted by the Legislature. So, this was a policy which had been approved by the Legislature and there was nothing new. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: When?) I cannot quote the date offhand, but I know it was a resolution of the Legislature. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: There was no such resolution in this House.) It was a resolution in the Council. I think it was moved by Mr. Nur Ahmed. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: The Council has got nothing to do with expenditure.) It was a resolution which was passed by the Legislature—one of the two Houses. Both the Houses constitute the Legislature.

So far as the Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme is concerned, the House will probably remember that the Kanchrapara area was under military occupation and after the Defence of India Rules ceased to be operative, the Government had to make an immediate decision as to whether Government would take up the lands and therefore it was an unforeseen contingency and we could not foresee it when we presented our original budget estimates. We had, therefore, to take a decision after the presentation of our annual budget and that is why we have now to come forward with a demand under the new head during the presentation of the supplementary budget estimates. The same remarks apply to the creation of the Muslim Education Fund.

Now, Sir, Mr. B. C. Ghose—I think “C.” stands for Comar. I have not made a mistake this time—has referred to my speech when I said that the supplementary estimates may have to be presented on two or three occasions. Of course, he himself drew the attention of the House that if after the passing of the original budget estimates, further expenditure has to be incurred, it should be by a vote of excess demand. I have not examined this question, but perhaps he is perfectly right. Nevertheless, when a contingency did arise and when that contingency was unforeseen by Government, Government had to incur this expenditure. All members of this House will agree that nobody could have foreseen these terrible and unforeseen happenings of August 16th to August 19th and Government had to incur a large expenditure for the relief of the riot victims. Nobody could have foreseen it and that expenditure had to be incurred. It was not possible for Government to convene a session of the Legislature so as to get sanction for expenditure in connection with the relief of riot victims. At that time Government could not also foresee how much expenditure Government would have to incur. That is why in my reply I said that it may be necessary to come to the House on two or three different occasions because even after having incurred expenditure Government might have to rush up to an expenditure of a crore of rupees and Government might present a supplementary demand for a crore of rupees, and they might again come forward with another supplementary demand for another additional crore of rupees. That is what I meant when I said in my reply that it might be

necessary to approach the House on more than one occasion and I think my friend Mr. B. C. Ghose—C standing for Comar—has also accepted that view and he said that the second time the Government approaches the House we should do it by a vote of excess grant. Whatever may be the method the fact remains that Government has to approach the House on more than one occasion. So I think there is no harm if Government approaches the House for sanction of excess expenditure in view of the fact that several of the contingencies which Government had to deal with were unforeseen and I think you will agree that there is nothing irregular. Government has only followed the practice hitherto followed in this House, as Mr. Ghose has pointed out. The Speaker did not give any direction to Government and so Government cannot be held responsible. The Speaker at that time maintained the *status quo* and in presenting the budget estimates this year in the form in which it has been done in the past, we have only conformed to the convention set up in this House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: May I say something, just one or two words, to elucidate further what I said in the light of what the Finance Minister has said. The first thing is this. The Finance Minister has said that he had given a warning when he presented the budget last time that more expenditure may be needed. That is quite true, but we are not concerned with the warning; we are concerned as to what we can do under the rules. If the Finance Minister had just given a warning to do something which is not permitted by the rules, it does not follow that the Finance Minister may do an irregular thing.

Secondly, with regard to certain expenditures the Finance Minister said that he could not visualise as to what amount of expenditure would be required, say, for riot victims. But that does not apply to the question of Grants 20 and 22 for setting up a fund for Muslim Education. That has nothing to do with something which is required either because of the fact that some new work has been imposed on the executive by Statute or that an unforeseen emergency has occurred. That is not an unforeseen emergency. Now, about excess expenditure the procedure is different. I do not mind in case the expenditure estimated for which the Government came in in the first instance was not sufficient,—if the Government should come up later with a motion for excess grant, but to do that they must come through the Public Accounts Committee. That also is another point, viz., that the procedure which Government have adopted has amounted to unnecessarily and unwarrantedly restricting the powers, privileges and functions of the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee is there to exercise certain functions. I say that Government should in the first place estimate as to what their expenditure is likely to be. If they think that riot may break out any time and that it may be endemic in this province, then it is much better for them to take a block grant as had been done during the war in many countries and meet the expenditure from such block grant. But as I said, firstly, just giving a warning does not entitle the Finance Minister to do something irregular, secondly, that if excess expenditure has been incurred, it should have come through the Public Accounts Committee; thirdly, that demands 20 and 22 do not come within the purview of the expenditure which the Finance Minister stated was necessary for meeting expenditure on riot victims and so forth. So I do not think, Sir, that the Finance Minister has been able to meet the points that I raised here.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Another point to which I beg to draw your attention. The Hon'ble Minister has said in reply that he did not know what amount of expenditure would be necessary, but that is, Sir, the case of supplementary estimates but with the original estimates too. After all they are estimates and it cannot be known beforehand what actual amount will be needed for a particular purpose. In dealing with estimates

we have always to make a guess and in a guess it is as much a guess in the original estimates as it is in supplementary estimates. That is the first point.

The second point is that he has followed the usual practice. We concede that that is the usual practice but at the same time we draw your attention to the ruling quoted by Mr. Ghose. The Deputy Speaker ruled that such an usual practice is possible only in India where the Legislature is defrauded of its legitimate power. Therefore that it is the usual practice is no excuse. It is a wrong practice and it is up to you, Sir, to revise that practice and to enforce the right that has been given to the Legislature under the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, the two points raised by you seem to me to be old points which have been raised, mooted, discussed and decisions given in this House before. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Not second point, the first point, yes.) So far as the first point is concerned, I am definite that a decision was given in this matter. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: No decision was given by the Speaker in this House.)

But the Speaker promised to issue certain direction, which was not issued. I shall have to look into it and examine how far I can help you in this matter.

So far as the second point is concerned, it will not be fair on my part to give an opinion about the procedure off-hand. I will go into the matter further and express my views tomorrow.

MR. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, in view of what you have said, the discussion on the supplementary budget may be postponed.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Let us go on with it.

Discussion on supplementary demands.

MR. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to avail of the opportunity that has been provided by the presentation of supplementary estimates to elucidate further certain points that I had made out during the general discussion on the budget, particularly in the context of certain astounding observations made by the Finance Minister in his reply to the general discussion. This reply, Sir, was couched in an admirably fighting speech. But, like most of the dreams of my friends opposite, it contained more phantasy than facts. I may also add that the speech was more becoming of a politician addressing a meeting of party followers, let us say, under the Ochterloney Monument than of a Finance Minister speaking to a sedate Assembly House. Even assuming, Sir, that arithmetic has never been a strong point with our Finance Minister, the number of irresponsible utterances he indulged in were really amazing.

Let us in the first instance again try to assess—

MR. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Mr. Ghose is trying to make out a point out of the reply which was given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister the other day on the general discussion of the original budget that was presented. My submission is that the point that he is now trying to make out before the House does not arise from the reply. Today is fixed for discussion of supplementary budget estimates. His objection ought to be confined to today's subject; otherwise I think it will be out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that is only a preface to what he is going to

MR. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: I hope, Sir, that you will not take that time out of the time allotted to me.

Now, Sir, let us in the first instance try to assess what we obtained under the Niemeyer Award. It is really inconceivable that a Finance Minister of a province like Bengal would be so ill informed or so ill advised as to assert that Bengal owed to the Centre a sum of Rs. 33 lakhs only which was wiped out at the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy. What Bengal owed to the Centre was not Rs. 33 lakhs but about 9 crores of rupees. Rupees 33 lakhs represented the annual nett saving—let me repeat “annual nett saving”—as a result of cancellation of the debt that the province owed to the Centre. Again the increase of jute export duty by another 12½ per cent. meant on the basis of the yield in 1936-37 an additional revenue of Rs. 42 lakhs which was to be enjoyed every year. Thus Rs. 33 lakhs plus Rs. 42 lakhs or Rs. 75 lakhs was the measure of the annual relief that Bengal obtained under the Niemeyer Award. Although it was not obtained by a direct subvention from the Centre, but nevertheless it represented the measure of the annual relief that Bengal obtained as a result of the Niemeyer Award. I am sorry, Sir, to sound almost like a schoolmaster, but I am afraid the Finance Minister left me with no other alternative.

In the second place, the Finance Minister had said that if we were to get the whole of the jute export duty and Bengal's contribution in respect of income-tax, Bengal's financial difficulties would be over. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister overlooked two facts. Firstly, out of the 17 crores—he said 19 crores I believe—that is the total amount to be obtained from those two heads, Rs. 7 crores has already been received and taken into account in the revenue income of that year. Like a wilful little boy, our Finance Minister would like to eat his cake and also have it. Don't you think, Sir, he should be sufficiently grown up by this time to realise that he cannot do both? In the second place, the Finance Minister did not allow for any collection charges or other incidental charges. I maintain, Sir, that even if we were to get the whole of the jute export duty and Bengal's contribution in respect of income-tax, our difficulties would not be over.

In the third place, our young Finance Minister gave us a very amusing demonstration as to where his day dreaming would lead him to. Untrammelled by any factual or realistic considerations, he did not hesitate for a moment to produce imaginary figures of probable revenue income. I do not want to waste the time of the House by entering into a controversy over those figures. But I will just cite one instance to show how fantastically absurd those figures are. The Finance Minister said that the customs duty should amount to Rs. 65½ crores but the Finance Minister forgets that a very large bulk of the duty that is so collected is in respect of goods which pass through Calcutta and Bengal to other non-Muslim majority provinces and that these imports would surely be diverted to other Indian Ports if Bengal were to declare her independent of the Centre and levy a duty for her own purposes. Even Professor Coupland, who, like our friends who occupy the benches immediately to our left is a member of the British wing of the Muslim League party (laughter) had to concede this: “It would be open to the Hindu state to import its goods through a Hindu Port such as Bombay”. And he adds that the bulk of these imports would continue to go, as they go now, to Western Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and the Eastern areas of the Central and United Provinces.

I do not know if our Finance Minister has come across a memorandum prepared by Sir Homi Mody and Dr. Mathai and entitled “A Memorandum on the Economic and Financial Aspects of Pakistan”. (The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We have both read the *Hindusthan Standard*.) In that memorandum the authors calculated that the amount of revenue that the Centre collected from Eastern Pakistan including Assam was about Rs. 18 crores against which a revenue expenditure of Rs. 8 crores had to be incurred leaving only 10 crores of rupees as the balance, which amount

was considered very inadequate even for purposes of defence. Let me quote again our friend of the Muslim League, Professor Coupland. He said: "Eastern Pakistan would find it impossible to maintain the security they enjoyed at present and could only provide the minimum needs of defence by a fall in the standard of living and a sacrifice of social advancement."

There is only one other point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister through you, Sir; and that is the speech of our Muslim League stalwart, the Finance Member of the Government of India, Mr. Liaquat Ali, whose speech must have come as a great shock and disappointment to his friend, our young Finance Minister, because not only is there no promise of a direct subvention but he has stated something about development expenditure which would cause great anxiety to Bengal. Two things should be mentioned in this connection. Firstly, he said that there is no certainty as to whether the amount which Sir Archibald Rowlands had promised would be always available, for that would depend on the financial position of the Centre. Secondly, he hinted that, in future, the Centre might insist that a prescribed proportion of expenditure on development projects to be undertaken by the provinces should be contributed by the provinces themselves. Both will have serious repercussions on the finances of Bengal. I would seriously ask the Finance Minister to consider the import of these new factors. He should realise, if Pakistani logic has not befogged his normal reasoning faculties, that Bengal faces a serious financial situation. Mere heroics of whatever variety will not save the situation. To find out the real causes of Bengal's financial malady and thereafter to strictly enforce all rigorous measures necessary to cure that malady are the only way in which Bengal can avert the financial crisis that confronts her.

Sir, I sincerely hope that the Finance Minister will give most serious consideration to these matters, for otherwise a very dark future faces Bengal today.

Mr. NURUZZAMAN : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, বাজেট তৈয়ারি কালে সর্বশেষ "স্বয়ং ব্যবহার করুন" এই নীতি, এই মহাজনবাক্যটি স্মরণ রাখিতে হবে। "Cut your coat according to your cloth."

আমি বাজেট Session-এর ডেবন কোন গুরুত্ব দেখিতে পাই না। কারণ অর্থ-সচিব মহোদয় ও অন্যান্য বহিঃমহোদয়গণ যাহা যাহা যেভাবে লাবী করেন, তাহাই আমাদের পাপ করিতে হয়। ইহাকে বরং এক প্রকার mockery বলা চলে। ডবিঘাটে সরকারকে অনেক বিষয়ে মিতব্যয়ী হইতে হইবে—adoption of policy of thrift & plain living & high thinking নীতি অবলম্বন করিতে হইবে।

আয়বৃদ্ধির জন্য বনিক ও বণিক শ্রেণীর এবং বিলাস-সামগ্রী ও মাদক দ্রব্যের উপর ট্যাক্স বাড়াইতে হইবে। তাহা হইলে অর্থের এত জনটন হইবে না।

অনেক অনেক বিষয়ে মানুষী প্রথা ত্যাগ করে নতুন নতুন প্রথা অবলম্বন করিতে হইবে। "Old order changeth yielding place to new" নীতি গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। দেশের বর্তমান অবস্থায় সামরিক শিক্ষার একান্ত প্রয়োজন বটে। উচ্চতর সামরিক জুল-কলেজ হওয়া প্রয়োজন। কিন্তু এজন্য কোন ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। কোন জাতিই Martial Spirit, Martial Training & Martial Courage বাতীত স্বাধীন হইতে পারে না।

কৃষি আমাদের জীবন এবং উহাই আমাদের সর্বপ্রধান অবলম্বন। কৃষি ও কৃষকই দেশের বৈকল্য ও জাহায়াই বনসাম্পদ উৎপাদন করে ও কোটি কোটি লোকের জীবন রক্ষা করে—অপর সকল আগাছা ও পরগাছা যাত্র। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে, ঐ বাস্তব গুরুত্ব ও পারিবারিক তুলনায় ও প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় ব্যয়বরাদ্দ অতিশয় কম। বরী মহাপ্রদেয় দুটি এদিকে আকর্ষণ করি।

আমাদের সবার আঁতি কর বলে এই বক্তব্য করে ডবিঘাটের উজ্জ্বল আশা হৃদয়ে পোষণ করে আমি এই বাজেট সম্বন্ধে করিতেছি।

Mr. G. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened with interest to the Hon'ble Finance Minister's reply to the first part of Mr. B. C. Ghose's point of order, and agree that the late presentation of the Supplementary Estimates this year is unavoidable. We hope, however, that in future he will strictly follow the practice of presenting supplementary estimates either in the monsoon session or at the latest in the November-December session.

Sir, the largest single item in this post mortem estimate is the additional expenditure of nearly 3 crores under the head "Famine". We have so far had no adequate explanation of this very large item which exceeds the amount expended on relief during the Famine year 1943-44. Would the Hon'ble Finance Minister let us have further information about the purchases of accessory foodstuffs? None of the members on this side of the House have any knowledge as to what "Ralston" is. To whom and where were these foodstuffs distributed? Have Government been able to sell any of the dehydrated potatoes which they have been offering to the citizens of Calcutta and how does Government expect to sell them at a price exceeding the current rate for ordinary potatoes?

We would also like to know what has been the method of control over this expenditure. We think the Hon'ble Finance Minister should answer the general allegation that there has been no control over this expenditure and that much of it is under audit objection owing to lack of vouchers.

We had expected that there would be considerable additional expenditure on Police in view of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's statement that additional Police expenditure would be necessary and on account of the serious disorders which have prevailed during the last year in various parts of the province. The supplementary estimates, however, give no hint of this, and in fact nearly half of the estimates is due to failure to recover contributions from the Government of India. As speakers from this side of the House have so often emphasised, there can be no progress without law and order. It is therefore our primary duty to see that the police force is adequate in strength and equipment to maintain law and order. The police of this province has been designed to operate under normal conditions and not to control widespread outbreaks of disorder—which has been proved many times over during the last 18 months. This need will not become any less in the next few years and I should like to remind the Government that with the departure of the British Army next year, the Police are likely to have much heavier responsibility on their shoulders.

We congratulate the Government on their decision to make a model residential and industrial area out of part of the American bomb dump at Kanchrapara. The unusual height of this area together with the road, rail and drainage facilities installed by the Americans, make it an ideal site for the purpose. We hope that Government will do all they can to make this scheme one of which the Province will be proud.

A large item amounting to nearly one crore consists of additional loans and advances by the Provincial Government. The position with regard to advances to cultivators appears to us to be unsatisfactory, and in our opinion, a much stricter policy must be followed with regard to the issue and recovery of agricultural loans. Agricultural loans provide a temptation—they form an easy way of benefiting one's constituents—and this makes it all the more necessary that their issue and recovery should be strictly controlled. With agricultural produce continuing to fetch high prices one would have expected that the amount of loans outstanding would have diminished but oddly enough the contrary is the case. Total outstandings have increased from year to year. Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister kindly state what Government are doing to enforce recovery of these huge outstandings and whether he cannot ensure in future that all agricultural loans are recovered in the year in which they are advanced?

We notice also that the supplementary estimates include additional advances to the Calcutta Corporation of over 26 lakhs. We would urge Government immediately to come to a financial settlement with the Corporation along the lines recommended by Sir Walter Gurner. If matters are allowed to drift any further they will end in the complete bankruptcy of the Corporation and it is not satisfactory that Government should continue to make advances out of the taxpayer's money when the Corporation is doing nothing to put its own house in order. The Corporation is in the same position as regards assistance from the Provincial Government as the Provincial Government is in regard to assistance from the Central Government. The Provincial Government cannot expect assistance from the Centre unless it exploits its own resources to the fullest extent and puts its own house in order. Similarly, the Corporation cannot expect financial assistance from the Provincial Government unless it makes every possible effort to help itself. It cannot be said that the Corporation has done this. The consolidated rate has not been increased for 50 years which is an astonishing fact when one considers the growth of Calcutta and the rise in cost of administration, services and raw materials, during that period. As everybody knows, there has been serious deterioration in the collection of the existing consolidated rate. There are also serious defects in the assessment of rateable value; and if Sir Walter Gurner's recommendations on this point were followed, the Corporation could increase its resources appreciably.

We would urge strongly that the Hon'ble Finance Minister should convene a conference with the Corporation representatives at an early date and endeavour to reach a financial settlement which will ensure the stability of the Corporation.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়, এই Supplementary বাজেটের দিকে একটু তাকালেই চারিটি বিষয় বিশেষ নজরে পড়ে। একটা হচ্ছে দু'ভিকের ঋণে অতিশয় অতিরিক্ত খরচ। দ্বিতীয় হচ্ছে কাঁচড়াপাড়া অঞ্চলের উন্নতিসাধন। তৃতীয় হচ্ছে গত অক্টোবর মাসে বিহার ও লোহাখালীতে যে সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গা হয় তাতে যেসব লোক কতিপয় হয়েছে তাদের জন্য relief এর ব্যবস্থা আর চতুর্থ হচ্ছে বুলসির Education Fund এর সঙ্কট। ব্রিটিশসরকার গত জুলাই মাসে যে বাজেট পেশ করেছিলেন তাতে দু'ভিকের জন্য ২ কোটি ৯০ লক্ষ টাকার ব্যয় করা হয়েছিল। তারপর আমাদের দেশে এমন কোন দু'ভিক দেখা দেয় নাই যার দরুণ আবার বৎসর বেতে না যেতে আরও ২ কোটি ৯০ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার টাকা খরচ করা দরকার। আমার বাড়ী পুণ্ড্রী মাদারীপুরে নারীরা গ্রামে। ১৯৪৩ সালের মজুরের বেতন অঙ্কল বিশেষভাবে কতিপয় হয়েছিল আমাদের অঙ্কল তাদের মধ্যে অন্যতম। আমি পুণ্ড্রী বাড়ী বাই, ১৯৪৬ সালে আমাদের অঙ্কলে এমন কোন দুরবস্থা দেখি নাই কিংবা গভর্ণ'মেন্টের পক্ষ থেকে এমন কোন সাহায্যের ব্যবস্থা দেখি নাই যার বলে গভর্ণ'মেন্টকে আবার ২ কোটি ৯০ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার টাকা খরচ করতে হয়েছে। অবশ্য দু'ভিকে হারা কতিপয় হয়, খরচ কষ্ট পায় তাদের জন্য গভর্ণ'মেন্ট মুক্তহস্তে খরচ করুন এ আমরা চাই কিন্তু আমাদের মনে আশঙ্কা হয় এই যে, এত অধিক টাকা খরচ হয়েছে তার মধ্যে খুব কম টাকাই দু'ভিক প্রণীতিগুলোর সাহায্যে ব্যয় হয়েছে—খুব কম টাকাই দু'ভিক জনগণের হাতে পড়েছে। অবিকাংশ টাকা খরচ হয়েছে খুশ, চুরি প্রভৃতি ব্যাপারে। এই বিষয়ে ডাঃ মুন্সাজি বাজেটের সাধারণ আলোচনার সময় একটু বিতৃপ্তভাবেই বলেছিলেন, আমার মনে হয় এই ২ কোটি ৯০ লক্ষ টাকার অবিকাংশই অন্যায়ভাবে ব্যয়িত হয়েছে। আমি বরী মহোদয়কে এ সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ অনুসন্ধান করতে অনুরোধ করছি।

আমার বক্তব্যের দ্বিতীয় বিষয় হচ্ছে কাঁচড়াপাড়া সম্বন্ধে। কাঁচড়াপাড়ার লক্ষণিত উন্নতি সম্বন্ধে অনেক কিছু বলা হয়েছে। বলা হয়েছে সেখানে একটি বন্ধু-নিবাস করা হবে, বহু লোকের থাকবার ব্যবস্থা করা হবে এবং সে অঞ্চলকে একটি শিল্প অঞ্চলে পরিণত করা হবে। আমি একজন ডাক্তার, আমার মতে এই রকম তিনটি জিনিষ এক জায়গার হতে পারে না। গভর্ণ'মেন্টের পরিকল্পনা অনুসারে কাঁচড়াপাড়ার এক হাজার বন্ধুসারোগীর থাকবার ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। যেখানে এক হাজার বন্ধুসারোগী থাকবে তার বাবে কাছে জনসাধারণের বাস করা বিপজ্জনক। তা' ছাড়া Industrial area বন্ধু হাসপাতালের বাবে কাছে হতে পারে না। শ্রমনিষ্ঠ অঞ্চল বেরিয়ার হয়ে যাবে, দু'ভিতে ভরে ওঠে। এ কারণে এই রকম শ্রমনিষ্ঠ area

বক্ষ্যারোপী পক্ষে খুবই সারস্বক। তাই মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করছি, তাঁরা কাঁচড়াপাড়ার তত্ত্ব একটি বক্ষ্য হাঙ্গামাতলাই করুন, যেমন স্যাক্স প্রেসিডেন্সীতে মদনপারীতে আছে। তাঁরা সেখানে একটি দুন্দর বক্ষ্য হাঙ্গামাতলাই করেছেন। সেখানে বিরাট ভাষণ নিয়ে বিভিন্ন এলাকার নানা রকম গৃহ তৈয়ারী করা হয়েছে। এখন গৃহের কোন কোনটিতে কেহ ইচ্ছা করেন, পরিবার নিয়ে থাকতে পারে, একলা থাকতে পারে—আবার হাঙ্গামাতলাইয়ের বড়ো নকলে মিলে থাকার ব্যবস্থা আছে। সেখানে বাগান আছে, খেলার মাঠ আছে—মানারকম আরোহ-প্রবোধের ব্যবস্থা আছে। সেখানে রোগীরা বাড়ীর বড় আরাধন এবং অনেকটা সুখে স্বচ্ছন্দে থাকে। আবার বাংলার দেশে বক্ষ্যারোগ জনশঃ বেড়ে চলেছে। এখানে বক্ষ্য হাঙ্গামাতলাই নির্ধারণ পুরোজন। কাঁচড়াপাড়ার একটি বক্ষ্য হাঙ্গামাতলাই তৈরী করতে চাচ্ছেন বলে আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। তাঁদের আমি বিশেষ অনুরোধ করছি তাঁরা মদনপারীর বক্ষ্য হাঙ্গামাতলাইয়ের আদর্শে এখানে একটি বক্ষ্য-নিবাস তৈয়ারী করুন। জনসাধারণের জন্য বাসগৃহ নিশ্চিত হউক, শ্রমশিল্প বাড়ান হউক এ আমরা চাই কিন্তু এ সব তাঁরা অন্য ভাষণের বক্ষ্য হাঙ্গামাতলাইয়ের ধারে কাছে নয়।

তারপর তৃতীয় কথা হচ্ছে মুসলিম Education Fund সম্বন্ধে। গত জুলাই মাসের বাজেটের সময় তাঁদের এ ধরনের Fund সৃষ্টি করার কথা নিশ্চয়ই মনে উঠে নাই। বাজেটের সাধারণ আলোচনার সময় বলছি, এখন আবার বলছি, এবারের বাজেট সাম্প্রদায়িকতা দ্বারা অনুপ্রাণিত। আমার মনে হয় আগষ্ট মাসে কলিকাতায় যে ব্যাপার ঘটে এবং অক্টোবরে নোয়াখালী ও বিহারে যে ঘটনা ঘটেছে, তার ফলে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের মনে সাম্প্রদায়িকতাবিশেষত্বের উদ্রেক হয় এবং তারপরই এই রকম একটা মুসলিম Education Fundএর সৃষ্টির কথা ভাবেন।

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : আর এক মিনিট, স্যার। এ ধরনের Fund সৃষ্টির পরিকল্পনা যদি তাদের আগে হতেই ছিল তবে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ১৯৪৬ সালের জুলাই মাসের বাজেটে এর জন্য বরাদ্দ সন্নিবেশিত করতে পারতেন। Muslim Education Fund সৃষ্টির যে কারণ দেখানো হয়েছে তা তখনও বিদ্যমান ছিল।

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to make observations on the supplementary estimates that have been presented by the Finance Minister, I will not, Sir, again raise that King 'Charles' Head, namely, the Niemeyer Award. For me at least, Sir, I believe that it is quite useless to produce arguments based on facts and figures and logic because, Sir, it has been our sorry experience that little heed is paid to those facts and figures. That is perhaps, Sir, the Muslim League way of things. I would only like to refer the Hon'ble Finance Minister to the speech delivered on the floor of this House by the then Finance Minister, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker when in presenting the budget estimates for 1939-40 he said: In taking our last look on 1937-38 we are reminded that this was the first year of provincial autonomy. A valuable asset was the absence of any budgetary deficit and the receipt of substantial addition to revenue on account of the Niemeyer Award. I would like, Sir, to refer the Finance Minister to that statement and request him to tell us what are the implications of the statement made by the then Finance Minister.

Then, Sir, I would like to pass on to this year's supplementary budget. I would first draw the attention of the House to the total expenditure on the supplementary estimates in relation to the total expenditure of the raised estimates. If you work out the percentage, you will find that the margin of error—if I may be permitted to put it in that language—the margin of error has been nothing short of 14 per cent. The supplementary estimates cover really 14 per cent. of the revised estimates.

Then, Sir, what are the items? The item I take first is Police. Lots have been said on the maladministration in the Police Department, but I would now like to reveal to the House the latest information about such maladministration that has reached us and that is relating to the granting of licence of a revolver to an honourable member of this House belonging to this side. I may tell you that only a few days ago the licence for a

revolver was granted to the honourable member representing the Dinajpur Rural General Constituency and he was allowed to purchase a revolver when, like a bolt from the blue, the Magistrate, who had consulted the police before issuing this licence, comes down and on the 6th March writes a letter to him informing him that the licence has been cancelled. It has been distinctly laid down in the Arms Manual that there cannot be any withholding of licence for holding a particular political opinion. I do not, Sir, know what led to the cancellation of this licence, but if holding a particular view is responsible for this cancellation of licence, we say, Sir—and I use these words determinedly—that what the Chief Minister said the other day about not raising a private army is an atrocious misstatement of fact and it is, Sir, the deliberate policy of this Cabinet to disarm those who happen to differ from them in politics and policy and to arm those who are their henchmen.

Then, Sir, I will pass on to the Tax on Income other than the Corporation Tax. We have repeatedly requested the Government from this side of the House to earmark the proceeds of this tax for agricultural improvement. The author of the agricultural income-tax, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsī Chandra Goswami—he is also no longer Hon'ble—said that it was bad finance to reserve any proceeds of any particular tax for any particular purpose. I think, Sir, he used these words with a view to show that the whole finances of the Government of Bengal would be bad and, therefore, it will be of no use to earmark a particular sum for any particular good purpose.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of collection of this tax. I have worked out the percentage. For collecting Rs. 50 lakhs the Government of Bengal have spent Rs. 45,000, that is nearly 7 per cent. I would refer the Hon'ble Finance Minister to the cost of collection of the ordinary income-tax. I find from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India that in collecting 19 crores, they have spent only Rs. 67·41 lakhs and the percentage if worked out comes to 3·8. That is the efficiency of the Government of India and contrast with it the efficiency—of course with a question mark—of the Bengal Government which have had to spend 7 per cent. as collection cost—that is nearly double the amount of the usual collection cost of the Government of India.

Sir, I then come to the General Administration. The cost of general administration has now come to 7 per cent. of our total revenue expenditure. I would like you to refer to other Provinces where the cost of general administration is only 4·9 per cent. as contrasted to 7 per cent. in Bengal. I refer to Bombay—there it is not the Muslim League way of administration; that is the Congress way of administration. That administration benefits the people and does not involve wasteful expenditure for maintaining the party and patronising party-henchmen.

Sir, I have many points to submit, but the time at my disposal is short. I would therefore like to bring to your notice another fact and I have finished. I bring to your notice a matter regarding Co-operation. Additional sums have been demanded for Co-operation, but here I have with me certain papers relating to the Taki Central Co-operative Bank of which the Secretary is one of the Hon'ble Ministers sitting on the Treasury Bench. Here is an official order about what happened. If I had time I could have read it. The official order of the Subdivisional Supply Officer shows that yarn and sugar have been stolen from the Co-operative Bank and this Co-operative Bank used to deal in sugar and yarn without receiving any licence for yarn and sugar from the Government of Bengal. That was done by a Secretary who happens to adorn the Treasury Bench of the present Government. That is the way in which things are being done.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Sir, my time is up and I resume my seat with these words. The Hon'ble Finance Minister can present big supplementary estimates, but he cannot really squander away money in this fashion.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw your attention to some very unhappy happenings in Chittagong during the last few months. I start with Jinnah Day. On that day there was a meeting, and at that meeting Mr. Fazlul Quadir Chowdhury, Muslim League Secretary, amongst other things said "Not only the Hindus have their Surya Sens, we can also have our Surya Sens, and Hindus have got their Surya Sens, we can have our Surya Sen. If the Additional Superintendent of Police does not behave differently, we shall kill him". So far as I can make out by events which have happened afterwards, no restraint was put on the tongue of that young man. From there I will go to the "Bihar Day". Before that I might add also that Mr. Sen is a man who was trying his level best to look after the interests of both the Hindus and the Muslims of Chittagong.

I will now go to the "Bihar Day" subscriptions. The Hindu businessmen were approached for very heavy donations. Business in Chittagong is not as good as it was some months before and it is often difficult for these men to spare heavy donations. The Muslim volunteers approached them. When a smaller sum was suggested, they went away. They came back with Civil Supply officers and other officers and so much pressure was put on these people that they would not be able to carry on their business, unless they agreed to the suggestion. These businessmen, however much they cannot afford to pay, were obliged to give up to the demands of these volunteers.

I would mention another matter. Mr. Fazlul Quadir Chaudhury rented a house of a Marwari gentleman. Police got some information and the House was raided and there some materials which had been stolen from the Military were found. The Marwari gentleman at first said that he had rented the House to that gentleman, but afterwards we can understand that much pressure must have been put on him and he withdrew the statement that Mr. Fazlul Quadir Chaudhury had rented the house from him.

I would mention another matter. An employee of Mr. Sunanda Ghosh of Chatkai was most brutally murdered. Two witnesses were there who saw the whole thing. The man who did it was one deserter from the Army—Abdus Sattar. He had absconded. After three months he was found and taken to the Police thana. Mr. Quadir Chaudhury went to the Police and asked them to release him. The Police naturally refused to do so. On that night the same gentleman went to the thana with a letter from the District Magistrate asking for the release of that man. As we all know the word of the District Magistrate is last in this matter and that man who so cruelly murdered a perfectly innocent man was released. Not only that, but the man was made a hero. He was taken round the roads of Chittagong in a procession.

Then, as regards a member of this House I take it he feels he is a responsible man. He said to a gathering of eighty or ninety Muhammadan gentlemen that our Mr. Suhrawardy had killed ten men with his own gun. If you will do that you will be a Gazi, if you die for this you will be a *Nahid*. I have heard many things about Mr. Suhrawardy, but I do not know whether he killed ten men. But what I am now concerned with is the mischievous propaganda that is allowed to go on unchecked in the district of Chittagong of ours. The same gentleman said that "when we get Pakistan the Hindus can be treated as slaves: they will make very good slaves but they make bad masters." I may add that none of such utterances have ever been checked in Chittagong.

I have always understood that Government servants could not take part in active politics, but I have found that the District Magistrate of Chittagong has taken the most active part in politics. I once told him that "people feel that it is very strange that you take this young man of the Muslim League under your protection". He told me that "I feel that this young man is a mischievous man and so I take him with me".

Then I have mentioned to him that the Muslim National Guards have been parading the streets of Chittagong night after night. I myself heard them shouting. Woe betide a Hindu if he is out, he is searched and anything he may have is taken away from him. I may add that when Abdus Sattar was released from jail on the production of a letter from a certain officer, it was natural that that letter which got him his release was wanted and every effort was made to get that letter from its holder, but with what result? The Additional Superintendent of Chittagong has been transferred from there. Already I believe a Muslim has been put in his place. Mr. Bemrose will be going on leave and another Muslim will be put there. Some years ago no one would have minded that all were Muslims. We might have said that it is a little unfair, but we never felt before that Government would be doing this injustice to the Hindus. But these things are happening now everyday in Chittagong.

Then I would like to mention what happened on the 18th, 19th, 29th August and 4th September in Chittagong. Stabbing, murdering and looting of Hindus were taking place there. There was no retaliation from them. You may tell me that these things happened in a much greater scale in other areas. But I may tell you that there was no retaliation and no looting by the Hindus in Chittagong. A doctor's dispensary with medicines which would have done good to Hindus and Muslims alike was racked and ruined: his money and his wife's jewellery were stolen and his bicycle was ruined to the value of Rs. 12,000. I can give you full details if you want them. Two shops called Luxury Shop on the station road were racked and every piece of stock and everything were stolen. But no mention has been made of compensation to these people who have lost everything they had. I have many things more than I can say but I cannot ask for more time. But I will ask you, how long will the Hindus of Chittagong be treated in this way? Hindus and Muslims have been happy together many years; how long will the elders be able to persuade their sons that things will certainly be better in course of time? You cannot go on doing this for long.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DASGUPTA : মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়ের অধঃ-
লিখিত এই পরিব্রদের সারনে অভিযুক্ত ব্যয়বরাদ্দের দাবী উপস্থিত করেছেন—কৃষি, শিল্প, সেতু প্রভৃতি গঠনমূলক বিভাগের বাড়ে নয়, General Administration, পুলিশ প্রভৃতি শাসনব্যবস্থার বিভাগগুলির জন্য আর পুড়িক-পুড়ীকৃত ও সাম্প্রদায়িক লাঞ্ছনাকার কতিপয়গুলির সাহায্যের জন্য। বাংলা সরকারের শাসনব্যবস্থার এক নমুনা আবার কলিকাতা, ত্রিপুরা এবং নোয়াখালীর ব্যাপক হত্যাকাণ্ডের ব্যাপারে দেখছি। আর এক নমুনা নমুনা এইমাত্র হিসেস নেবী সেনগুপ্তার কাছে আমরা শুনলাম। আর এক ধরণের নমুনা বর্তমানে যে ডে-ভাগা আন্দোলন চলছে তাতে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি। এই ডে-ভাগা আন্দোলন ব্যাপারে বেনিগীপুর জেলার পালকুড়া গ্রামে, বৈমনসিংহ জেলার সুসঙ্গে, দিনাজপুর জেলার চারটী স্থানে, জলপাইগুড়ির বেটেলী থানার, রংপুর জেলার কিশোরগড়ে, ২৪-পরগণার সন্দেহখালী গ্রামে এবং আরও নানানস্থানে পুলিশের গুলি চলেছে। জেলার জেলায় এই যে হত্যাকাণ্ড চলছে, এর জন্য অনেকাংশে দায়ী বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট—ডে-ভাগা আন্দোলনকে তীব্রতার সঙ্গে বতি থিরতার অভাব—আর লজ্জাজনক নিষ্ক্রিয়তা। এই পরিব্রদের সারনে ডে-ভাগা Bengali Bargadars Temporary Regulation Bill এবং নবর উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে বঙ্গীয় আইনসভায় জোতদার-দের মৌরাসী বান কেটে নিয়ে জোতদারের গোমার তুলেছে, উভনো যে বান বাড়াই হয়নি। এই আইনের ভেতর retrospective effect দেওয়ার কথাও আছে। আদিবাসীদের বনে বড়ই একটা ক্ষতিসাধন হয়েছে। এই ক্ষেত্রে একটা দলবিশেষ রাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্যনিষ্ঠের জন্য এই আইন প্রণয়ন প্রথমে শুরু করেন। এটা তারা চেষ্টা করেছিল আদিবাসীরা বাড়ে বান কেটে জোতদারদের গোমার না জোবে।

কিন্তু তা সফল হয়নি। বর্তমানে যা চলছে তা নিছক লুটপাট। আজ জেলার জেলার যা চলছে তা এই জোড়দারদের গোলা পঁচ সাত হাজার লোক একত্র হয়ে আক্রমণ করে। কোন কোন স্থানে জোড়দারকে কর্ণবার করে তার বাড়ীতে আগুন লাগিয়ে দিয়ে, লুট করে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে সম্পূর্ণ ধান। খাঁটি খাঁটি ধান তারা লুট করে নিয়ে চলে যাচ্ছে। কত ধান যে পথেই খেয়ে পড়ে যাচ্ছে, তার ইয়ত্তা নেই। এই যে ধান এইভাবে নষ্ট হচ্ছে তার পরিমাণ কত হাজার বণ হবে, তা বলা যায় না। এইভাবে যখন সবচেয়ে বেশি খাদ্যাভাব—বেশি খাবার সেই—তখন এই ধান এরনি করে নষ্ট করে দেওয়া হচ্ছে। জোড়দাররা ধানার এজাহার দিলে কোন কল হয়নি, ধান থেকে কোন Step নেয় নাই। তারপর আজ অবস্থা যখন এমন পোচনীয় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে, এমন কি ধান পর্যন্ত আক্রমণের সম্ভাবনা হয়েছে তখন গভর্ণমেন্টের চৈতন্য হয়েছে, আজ তারা বেশরওয়াভাবে গুলি চালাচ্ছে। এর প্রয়োজন হ'ত না যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট সময় থাকতে সজাগ হতেন এবং সময় থাকতে দেশের লোককে তাদের ইতিকর্ষ্য বুঝিয়ে বলে দিতেন। আর্মিরারদের দুই ভাগ পাওয়ার লবী আর্মি সমর্থন করি। যেখানে জোড়দাররা আর্মিরারদের কোন রকম সাহায্য করে না জর্মির উন্মুতি বা চাষের ব্যাপারে, সেখানে আর্মিরাররা ফসলের তিন ভাগের দুইভাগ ন্যায়তঃ পেতে পারে। এই এসেম্বলিতে ১৯৩৭ সালে যখন বঙ্গীয় শ্রমজীবন বিলের আলোচনা হয় তখন আমাদের কংগ্রেস পক্ষ থেকে আর্মিরারদের জর্মির উপর স্বয়ং দেওয়ার কথা উঠেছিল। জলপাইগুড়ি জেলার আর্মিরারদের উপর জোড়দারদের যে অত্যাচার চলেছিল, তার প্রতিবাদ আমরা এখানে করেছি। কিন্তু আজ তে-ভাগী নামে যা চলছে সে লুটপাট আমরা কোন রকমে সমর্থন করতে পারি না। এই লুটপাটের দরুন বহু ধান নষ্ট হয়ে যাচ্ছে। এতে আর্মিরার কোন রকম লাভবান হবে বলে আমি মনে করি না। কয়েকদিন আগে জলপাইগুড়ি জেলার বেটেলী থানায় পুলিশের গুলী চলেছে, ফলে ৫ জন লোক সরাসরি সেখানে মারা পড়ে। তারা আর্মিবাহী, তাতে চা বাগানের কুলি ছিল, আর্মিরারও ছিল। এতদিন সে জেলায় কোন গুলী চলে নাই। অনেক জোড়দারের বাড়ী থেকে ধান লুট হয়ে গেছে—বাড়ীতে আগুন লাগান হয়েছে। কোন কোন জোড়দারকে মারপিটও করা হয়েছে। পুলিশ কোন Step নেয় নাই। কিন্তু হঠাৎ এরকমভাবে পুলিশ গুলী করলো কেন? তার কারণ সেখানে জোড়দার একজন প্রভাবশালী মুসলমান বলেই কি? তার পক্ষে পুলিশ শিকিট এনে রাখা সম্ভব হয়েছিল। জলপাইগুড়ি জেলায় যে সমস্ত চা-বাগান আছে—সেখানের কুলিদের মধ্যেও ভীষণ unrest চলেছে। বাগানে বাগানে কুলিরা দলবদ্ধ হয়ে তাহাদের ধরে মারছে—তার ফলে চা-বাগানে দারুন অশান্তি হচ্ছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DASGUPTA : আর এক মিনিট, স্যার। এই অপান্তির ব্যাপার শুনে আপনারা আশ্চর্যান্বিত হবেন। গভর্ণমেন্ট সেখানে কুলীদের খোরাক পঁচ সেরের জায়গায় সাড়ে তিন সের বরাদ্দ করেছিলেন। গভর্ণমেন্ট চা-বাগানের জন্য সরাসরি ধানচাল কেনা বন্ধ করে দিয়েছিলেন। কুলিদের রেশন গভর্ণমেন্ট জোগাবেন বলে কথা দিয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু গত নভেম্বর মাসে হঠাৎ গভর্ণমেন্ট কুলিদের খোরাক জোগান বন্ধ করে দিলেন। পরিণতিতে যা ওয়া দিতে পারলেন তা হচ্ছে অর্ধেক চাউল ও আর অর্ধেক ভুট্টার গুড়ো যা নিত্যন্তই মানুষের অখাদ্য, তিতা, মুখে দেওয়া যায় না। যেট সাড়ে তিন সের চাল না দিয়ে পোঁচের দুই-সের ভুট্টার গুড়ো আর বাকীটা চাল দেওয়া হতে লাগল। তার ফলে কুলিরা বিদ্রোহ করল—ম্যানেজারের বাড়ী চড়াও করল।

Mr. NISHAPATI MAJHI : মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়, মাননীয় অর্থ-সচিব মহোদয় এধারকার বাজেটে যে ৭ কোটি করকে লক্ষ টাকার অতিরিক্ত ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করেছেন তার ২ কোটি ৯৩ লক্ষ দুর্গ-তদের সেবার জন্য ব্যয় করা হবে বলে বলা হয়েছে। আমি বলি ২ কোটি ৯৩ লক্ষ কেন, আরও বেশী টাকা যদি প্রকৃত দুর্গ-তদের সেবার জন্য ব্যয় হত আমি তা' সর্বাঙ্গতঃ করণে সমর্থন করতাম। আজ বাংলা দেশে যারা প্রকৃত দুর্গ-ত, যারা চিরদুর্গ-ত, তাদের বঞ্চিত করে মনে হয় যেন বাংলা সরকার আর একটা দিক গ্রহণ করেছেন যার জন্য প্রত্যেক পরীতে পরীতে তীব্র সমালোচনা হচ্ছে, পথে, ঘাটে, মাঠে সর্বত্র শোনা যায় যে, এই ২ কোটি ৯৩ লক্ষ টাকা পরীতে পরীতে লীগের ক্ষতিব্যাগনের জন্য ব্যয় হয়েছে এবং এই বাবদে টাকা বরাদ্দ করে মাত্রো পশ্চিম-বংকে আর একটা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মর্মে পরিণত করা যায় অর্থাৎ লীগের পাকিস্থান রচনার পথ সুগম হয় তাই দোটা চলছে। আমি দুঃখের সঙ্গে বলতে বাধ্য বাংলা দেশে যারা চিরদুর্গ-ত তথা গুপ্তশীল সম্প্রদায় তাদের সংখ্যা বর্তমানে ৮ লক্ষ, বৈদিকীপুরে ৬ লক্ষ ও বীরভূমে ৪ লক্ষ এবং তাদের লভকরা ৮০ জন দুর্গ-ত তাদের চিরদুঃখ ও দুর্গ-তি মোচনের কোন ব্যবস্থা না করে বাংলা সরকার এক রাত পথে চলছে। এই রকম বাপ্পা ও প্রতারণা ১৯৩৮ সাল থেকে চলছে। উদাহরণ ১৯৩৮ সালে এই চিরদুর্গ-তদের দুর্গ-তি-মোচনের জন্য উগ্রগ্রহণ হয়ে উঠেছিলেন, জাই একটা ড্রুই-রাফর Commission নিযুক্ত করেছিলেন। এই কমিশন ১৯৪০ সালে তাঁদের report

দাখিল করেছেন। তারপর দীর্ঘ ৬ বৎসর কেটে গেল, কিন্তু সে সম্বন্ধে গভর্নমেন্ট কোন উচ্চবাচ্য করেছেন না। আবার ১৯৪৬ এবং ১৯৪৭ সালে বর্গাশার বিল, পতিত জমি উদ্ধার বিল নানা রকম সেশিরে এই সব চিরদুর্গত-দের যেন একটু উপহাস করা হচ্ছে। বলা হচ্ছে তাদের দুঃখ এবং দুর্গতি মোচন করবে, কিন্তু তলে তলে দুর্গতি মোচনের নামে চলছে মানবতার মোহাই দিয়ে অন্য প্রদেশের দুর্গতদের এখানে আনয়ন। প্রশ্ন করি, বাংলা দেশে কি দুর্গত নাই? তাদের দুর্গতি-মোচনের জন্য বাংলা সরকার কি কিছু করতে অক্ষম? আজ তারা পল্লীতে পল্লীতে পানীর জলের কষ্টে রয়েছে। অনেক রোগীর ঔষধ অভাবে চিকিৎসা হচ্ছে না--অনেকে চালা পাচ্ছে না, কাপড় পাচ্ছে না। প্রশ্ন করি, গভর্নমেন্ট তাদের জন্য কত কোটি টাকা ব্যয় করেছেন? গভর্নমেন্ট দুর্গতদের দুঃখ-মোচনের নামে এই যে দুই কোটি ৯৩ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করতে চলছেন এটা সত্যি তীব্র সমালোচনার যোগ্য। এটা অভ্যস্ত অনায়াস; এর দ্বারা পল্লীতে পল্লীতে নীপের ভিত্তি স্থাপিত হবে--পশ্চিম বঙ্গকে ভয়াবহ করে তোলা হবে। তা ছাড়া এ ব্যয়কে ব্যয়ের কোন সার্থকতা নেই।

Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, চট্টগ্রাম সম্বন্ধে এইমাত্র মাননীয়া সেনী সেনগুপ্তা আমাদের সামনে যে বিবৃতি পেশ করলেন, তার সঙ্গে সত্যের যে কতটুকু সঙ্গ আছে, তা আমি এখানে সংক্ষেপে বলতে চাই।

গত আগষ্ট হাঙ্গামার পরে যখন তিনি চট্টগ্রাম সম্বন্ধে বিবৃতির পর বিবৃতি দিতেছিলেন, তখন আমরাও তার শ্রুতিবাদে বিবৃতি দিয়েছি এবং তাঁকে অনুরোধ করেছি তিনি যেন চট্টগ্রামে গিয়ে স্বচক্ষে সব দেখে আসেন এবং তারপর তিনি যেন চট্টগ্রাম ব্যাপার সম্বন্ধে বিবৃতি দেন। কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যবশত: তিনি চট্টগ্রামে গেলেন না। তিনি বললেন, হাওয়া বদলের জন্য অন্যত্র যাচ্ছি। তিনি District Magistrate ও League Secretary সম্বন্ধে অনেক কথা বলেছেন। District Magistrate সম্বন্ধে বলতে গেলে বলতে হয় আমি হিন্দু-মুসলমান সকলকে বলতে শুনেছি যে, এই District Magistrate-এর মত একজন সুযোগ্য অফিসার বাংলা দেশে আর কেউ আছে কি না সন্দেহ। হিলুয়া একথাকো তাঁহার প্রশংসা করেছেন এবং সেটা আমি ব্যক্তিগতভাবে আমার হিন্দু বন্ধুদের সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করে জানতে পেরেছি। আমি কয়েকদিন চট্টগ্রামে ছিলাম। তাহাতে আমি যা দেখেছি, সেখানে হিন্দু-মুসলমানের কোন প্রকার গোলযোগ অশান্তি দেখি নাই। তবুও তিনি যে হিন্দু যুবকদের এইভাবে উত্তেজিত করেছেন তাতে আমরা বড়ই দুঃখিত হচ্ছি। সেখানে যে শান্তি বিরাজ করছে--তারপর তিনি যেন হিন্দুদের উত্তেজিত করে কোন সাম্প্রদায়িক হাঙ্গামা সৃষ্টি না করেন, তার জন্য তাঁকে অনুরোধ করছি।

যেসব হত্যাকাণ্ডের কথা বলা হয়েছে, সেগুলি সাম্প্রদায়িক মতের বলিয়া সরকার পক্ষে তদন্ত হওয়ার পরে সেগুলি আদালতে বিচার করে আসামীদের মুক্তি দেওয়া হয়েছে। সেখানে সাম্প্রদায়িকতার কোন কিছু ছিল না। District Magistrate খুব জনপ্রিয় লোক, হিন্দু-মুসলমান উভয় জাতিই তাঁকে শ্রদ্ধার চোখে দেখেন। তাঁরই সুবুদ্ধির দরুন বিহার ও নোয়াখালীর হাঙ্গামার পর সেখানে কোন ঘটনা হতে পারেনি। হিন্দু-মুসলমান সকলে অনেক সভা-সমিতি করে District Magistrateকে এখন অনেক ধন্যবাদ দিয়েছেন। মাননীয়া সেনগুপ্তার মত একজন responsible মহিলার এইরূপ উত্তেজনাপূর্ণ বিবৃতির দ্বারা আপত্তি করছি।

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I actually start replying to the many points raised in today's debate I want to say something about what some honourable member called a statement of mine which I made during the reply to the budget on Friday.

Sir, I was told on Saturday, when we adjourned for these holidays, by the Leader of the Opposition that certain observations of mine had been taken offence to and hurt the feelings of some of my friends on the other side. Sir, I was replying to the point that had been raised by members of the Opposition regarding creation of a special Muslim Education Fund of Rs. 10 lakhs. I was trying to justify the allotment of Rs. 10 lakhs for encouragement of education amongst Muslims who are educationally backward. I was also trying to trace the history of this backwardness of the Muslims and in course of my statement I said that it was very difficult for Muslims to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances. They were a ruling nation and suddenly they became a subject nation and they could not make any mental adjustment of the change, and they could not come forward and obtain their due from the ruling power. Of course I said that the position was different so far as the great Hindu community was concerned. They were a nation ruled and they continued in the same

role (Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: That is wrong history also). Whatever it may be it is a question of fact and not of theory. The fact remains that there was Muslim rule here and that Muslim rule was transferred to British hands and then there was British rule. What I was going to say is this. When I said that the Hindu community only had a change of masters, I want to make it clear, I was not meaning any offence, I was not trying to cast any aspersion. I was trying to justify the fact that the Muslims deserve encouragement. My religion does not teach me to offend the feelings, or belief or faith of anybody, and if I have inadvertently offended anybody, I want to express my regret.

So far as this debate on the supplementary estimates is concerned, I think Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose (I think this time I am correct Mr. Ghose wants to adopt vernacular in the Assembly, but he is still adopting a fashion laid down by the East India Company so far as the spelling of the Indian names is concerned) has raised some controversies regarding the Niemeyer Award. He said that I was trying to mislead the House. I was not trying to do that. It is true that I said that income from two heads would amount to Rs. 19 crores. The two heads are Income-tax and Jute Duty. I did not say that this Rs. 19 crores will be the extra income. What I was saying is that Bengal would have no deficit if the entire receipts from Income-tax and Jute Duty could go to the Provincial Exchequer. Apart from that I said that if Bengal would get the receipts from import duties amounting to Rs. 67½ crores—I hope Mr. Ghose will find that it is Rs. 67½ crores and not Rs. 65 crores—plus Rs. 2½ crores from Stamps plus, of course, the revenue from railway earnings, all these would amount to Rs. 100 crores. I was not referring to net augmentation of Rs. 100 crores. The idea was that Rs. 100 crores would be gross. Certainly there would be some expenditure in order to collect the amount. The net income may not be a surplus of Rs. 100 crores but the gross augmentation of provincial revenues would be Rs. 100 crores. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: You told me nearabout Rs. 100 crores.) Mr. Ghose has evidently read the editorial of "Hindusthan Standard". I have also read the same editorial. He has referred to the fact which was mentioned in the Hindusthan Standard yesterday that lot of goods coming to the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong may be diverted elsewhere. I do not see any reason why there should be any diversion, because Calcutta will be able to supply to Eastern India at a much cheaper rate than any other port in India. I think all commercial enterprises will look to the cost of landing goods, and if they do so, they will have to take their goods from the nearest port and they will not make goods more expensive by taking it through a circuitous route. Because if they did so and if they tried to divert the goods to other ports, then the traders in Bengal will be able to import their goods at a much cheaper landing cost and will be able to enter into competition with importers who bring their goods from other ports. The nett result will be that the imports will again increase, because these imported goods will be able to compete at a lower rate with imports made through other ports. That will explode again the theory that there will be danger of diversion of traffic to other ports in India.

Sir, the time is very short. So I need not deal with the references made to Nawabzada—I am sorry—Mr. Liaquat Ali. We know that the position is very disquieting. We know that the Government of India would be facing a deficit and the amount of surplus which the Government of India had anticipated will not be at their disposal, because they have had to make much concession to postal and railway employees. So the surplus which the Government of India had at their disposal will be taken up by this concession which has been made. We knew that the position was very disquieting, but we have no reason to presume now that the allotments they have made so far to Bengal will be curtailed. We can bank on the 69 crores that they have promised us, and of course it is a fact that we will have to supplement expenditure for development purposes from our

own coffers. That is true and we will do it. We will have to contribute our quota to many development schemes, and therefore there is no danger that there will be any difficulty in our going ahead with development schemes which we have formulated.

Then, Sir, Mr. Nurazzaman referred to the question of martial training. I think the House will agree that it is necessary that Bengal should get over the stigma that is attaching to Bengalis that they are not a martial race. That stigma has been deliberately thrust on us, and members on both sides of the House will agree that this is a stigma which Bengal does not deserve. Bengal, I am sure, can rise to the occasion and can produce very good fighting soldiers, and therefore if proper facilities are given to the people of this province they will be able to undertake military career and they will in no way be found inferior to any martial race in this country. The Hon'ble Chief Minister the other day outlined a scheme for the setting up of a feeder military academy. Probably members of this House know that it is proposed to set up a military academy somewhere near about Poona and there will be preliminary and auxiliary training centres in the province. Bengal has promised to Dr. Amarnath Jha, who is dealing with this matter when he came up here, to set up certain training centres in Bengal and Dr. Jha has also welcomed the idea. This will be a sort of a feeder institution for supply of candidates for training in the Indian Military Academy at Poona.

Now I come to Mr. Wilkinson. I agree with him that it is proper that supplementary estimates should be presented as early as possible, preferably in the monsoon session and failing that in the November-December session. We shall bear his suggestion in mind and we hope that if we do have to present supplementary estimates we will do it in the monsoon or the November-December session and we shall not go beyond that. He has wanted certain information regarding the purchase of a particular foodstuff and what has been the loss incurred on it. I am afraid I personally do not know exactly what this "Ralston" foodstuff is, but I am told that it is a special kind of cereal food which is nourishing and supplies all kinds of vitamin and protein. When Government felt that there might be shortage of food in this province they thought that they would be able to run "Gruel Kitchen" with this "Ralston" which is a sort of porridge which will be able to serve as a substitute food in place of wheat or rice. I do not know how that foodstuff has been used or in what manner the dehydrated potatoes have been used. I tried to contact my colleague, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Relief Department, but unfortunately he is not present here. So I am not in a position to say in what manner that Ralston foodstuff has been utilised by the Relief Directorate.

Sir, Mr. Wilkinson has said that the Supplementary Estimates do not give proof of what the Chief Minister said the other day that the Provincial Police Force had been augmented. If the honourable member will refer to the Supplementary Budget Estimates he will find that about Rs. 34 lakhs has been provided. He will find there certain heads under Police which will show that there is a provision for the purchase of Wireless equipments so that the Headquarters and the outlying areas may have direct touch with each other. There is also a provision for purchase of jeep cars. These will facilitate easy movement of police force in case there is any disturbance anywhere or in case there is a necessity for augmenting the police force at any station by appointment of extra constables and extra sub-inspectors of police. I am sure Mr. Wilkinson will look to the Budget Estimates of 1947-48 where he will find extra provision for augmenting the police force by appointing more than 300 sub-inspectors and other officers. So Government are anxious to make the police force adequate enough to cope with any disturbances that might arise in the province. As a matter of fact, Government have already taken steps for the recruitment of more than 300 officers for Bengal Police.

So far as the question of Loans and Advances is concerned, in my reply to the Budget Estimates of 1947-48 I said that Government had already appointed a high-levelled Accounts Officer to go into the manner in which accounts have been kept and to outline in what manner accounts should be kept. We are appointing several more Accounts Officers so that these accounts may be properly audited, checked and controlled. So far as the question of recovery of advances to cultivators is concerned, honourable members are perhaps aware that Government propose to amend the Public Demands Recovery Act so that advances made to agriculturists may be recovered under the Public Demands Recovery Act. We hope when the provisions of that Act come into force Government will be able to recover a substantial portion of the money advanced. I agree with Mr. Wilkinson that strict measures should be adopted in future in the matter of making advances and recovering the money lent to agriculturists.

I also agree with the opinion of Mr. Wilkinson that we should not give financial assistance to the Calcutta Corporation from tax-payers' money unless the Corporation agree to set their own house in order. I said to the House one day that we should expect the Corporation to set their own house in order, but I said that I was fully alive to the fact that there was necessity of examining the working of the Calcutta Corporation, and I may take the House into confidence by saying that Government proposes to appoint a Committee of Experts under section 16 to examine the financial position of the Corporation and to suggest retrenchment of the establishment structure of the Corporation so that if Government feel that their establishment expenses are top-heavy we will try to see how far this can be curtailed as is required for the purpose. For this purpose Government have been seriously thinking of appointing either the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay or an officer of similar reputation and standing. Probably Mr. Wilkinson will agree that the Bombay Corporation is very efficiently run and that the Municipal Commissioner there is the opposite number of the Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Corporation. The Municipal Commissioner is not a non-official member of the Corporation of Bombay. We have not yet got his consent, but we propose to write to the Bombay Corporation to lend us the services of their Municipal Commissioner for this purpose. So the House will agree with me when I say that this is a move in the right direction because we want to improve the standard of administration of the Calcutta Corporation.

I think it will be a news to Mr. Wilkinson when I say that I did meet certain representatives of the Calcutta Corporation—Hindu, Muslim and European, all Councillors of the Corporation—yesterday afternoon when we discussed the question of the financial position of the Calcutta Corporation, and I am receiving a deputation of the representatives of the Calcutta Corporation on Thursday next when we will go into the question of financial assistance to the Corporation. I am told that the working of the Calcutta Corporation will come almost to a dead stop unless we advance them 50 lakhs of rupees. They say that they had to give sanction of an excess expenditure of 30 lakhs and they are in arrears to the extent of 20 lakhs of rupees on account of riots and disturbances: so they are short of half a crore of rupees and they want an advance equal to that amount. I have not agreed to it but I have said that certainly Government are anxious to see that the amenities provided by the Corporation to the citizens of Calcutta are maintained and improved and to that extent Government will try to help the Corporation to see that the function and work of the Corporation do not come to a standstill. But at the same time Government want that amount of co-operation from the Calcutta Corporation which Government deserves. Frequently Corporation will come to Government for financial assistance, but every time in the Corporation meeting the Councillors will get up and adopt a hostile attitude to Government—that is a position which is inexplicable.

So I have said that Government will be pleased to give an advance to the Corporation to meet its obligations to the people of Calcutta, but at the same time Government will insist on the Corporation agreeing to set up a Committee to enquire into the financial position of the Corporation to see what should be its set-up and what should be its machinery. Government and Corporation have also to see what would be the better valuation and better assessment regarding the rates. I told the House some time ago that Government are proposing—it has not been finalised yet—to set up an independent Services Commission and Government are also contemplating to set up an independent Assessing Board for the Calcutta Corporation. These matters are under the consideration of Government and these matters will be placed before the Committee appointed under section 16, and this committee will go through and examine all the questions regarding the administration of the Corporation of Calcutta and on the basis of the recommendations of that Committee Government will come forward with a comprehensive amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, and it is strictly on the basis of the Corporation agreeing to the formation of this Committee that I said I shall consider the question of giving financial assistance to the Calcutta Corporation, and I think that after I have explained the position Mr. Wilkinson will no longer object to our giving a sort of *ad hoc* advance—strictly an advance—to the Calcutta Corporation recoverable within 12 months.

I do not think, Sir, I need go into many minor points that have been raised. I have already taken the time of the House and I hope in view of the statement that I have just made, members of the House will give their support to Government in the matter of doing good to the people of his province.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-52 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble MR. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 193 members.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Munsifs' courts in Dinajpur (Sadar).

38. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that out of two Munsifs' courts in the Sadar subdivision in Dinajpur only one is working; and

(ii) if so, since when?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) how many cases were pending before the First Munsif's court when this court was closed;

(ii) how many of them have since been disposed of; and

(iii) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of sending another Munsif there and, if not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan Roy): (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Since 23rd December, 1945.

(b) (i) Two thousand two hundred and ninety-three.

(ii) Five hundred and ninety-nine disposed of and 1,574 stayed by Debt Settlement Boards.

(iii) No. The number really pending is 120 and it is, therefore, not necessary to move the High Court to post a second Munsif to the station.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (a) (i) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Paucity of officers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many candidates who have been selected are now waiting on the list of Munsifs to be posted to gazetted appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to his answer, viz., paucity of staff, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was the paucity of the people available or whether the paucity of people who have actually been selected?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I have nothing to add.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মানবীর মহীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে (b) (iii) নং প্রশ্নে ছিল “whether the Hon’ble Minister is considering the desirability of sending another Munsif there, and if not, why not?” এবং এর উত্তরে Hon’ble Minister’s যে reply দিয়েছেন “No”; তাতে কি বুঝতে হবে এর কোন প্রয়োজন নেই?

The Hon’ble Mr. NACENDRA NARAYAN ROY: সেখানে ১২০টি case pending ছিল, সুতরাং দ্বিতীয় Munsif আসার ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: অভিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন স্যার, মহীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি নব্বের কোর্টে এই মামলাগুলি শেষ হতে কত সময় লাগবে?

The Hon’ble Mr. NACENDRA NARAYAN ROY: আমি বলতে পারি না।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি মামলা বখান pending থাকতে দেখা যাচ্ছে তখন লোক বাড়ান হবে না কেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not allow this question.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Roads in Howrah district.

***132. Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE:** Will the Hon’ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings (Communications) Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is any provision for the construction of new roads in the district of Howrah in the current financial year;
- (b) if so, in what subdivision and where;
- (c) whether there is any provision for the development and improvement of existing roads in the current financial year;
- (d) if so, whether Howrah-Uluberia, Howrah-Amta, Uluberia-Shyampore and Uluberia-Amta roads will be taken up this year; and
- (e) whether the Hon’ble Minister intends to make the *kutchra* road constructed for the military purpose from Bagnan to Shibganj a metalled and motorable one?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS (on behalf of the Hon’ble Mr. Dwarkahath Baroi): (a) No. The regular First Quinquennial Road Development Programme will start from 1947-48.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, there is no provision in current year’s budget for any road development work in the Howrah district.

(d) No, not this year.

(e) The Public Works Road Plan includes the construction of a motorable road from Bagnan to Shyampore which is not far from Shibganj.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon’ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis this First Quinquennial Road Development Programme has been drawn up? Whether it is on the basis of King’s report?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE: With reference to answer (d) will the Hon’ble Minister be pleased to state when does he propose to take up this work?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Very shortly.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (c) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the reasons for making no provision in the current year's budget for any road development work in the Howrah district?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: It is under the Road Development Programme which will shortly be taken up.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Will you kindly repeat your question?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (c) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no provision was made in the current year's budget for any road development work in the Howrah District?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Because there is no provision in the current year's budget.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I want to know what are the reasons.

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: For this I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how many projected main roads are awaiting commencement of work in the Howrah District?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the fate of the roads which the Hon'ble Finance Minister proposed to take up last year under the head "Provincial Highways"?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It relates to Howrah. I mean only those portions of the highways which come within the Howrah district.

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: That question does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It is not for him to say so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is his answer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to which particular authority considered the question of allocation of funds for road development works in the current year's budget, so far as Howrah district is concerned?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The Ministry in consultation with the Engineering staff.

Dacca-Aricha Road and Railway projects.

***133. Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings (Communications) Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether the construction of a motorable road from Dacca to Aricha has been included in the programme of construction of National Highways; and

(ii) if so—

- (1) whether any definite route has been decided upon, and
- (2) what is the route?

(b) If the answer to (a)(ii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he expects the construction work to begin?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

- (i) whether the Government are aware that there is a persistent demand by the public for a long time for the construction of a railway line from Dacca to Aricha;
- (ii) whether the construction of such a line was once sanctioned, but was ultimately abandoned;
- (iii) whether the proposal for the construction of the above line has again been raised as a part of post-war reconstruction; and
- (iv) if so, whether the Government of Bengal have given consent to the proposal?

(d) If the answer to the clause (c)(iii) is in the negative, do the Government consider the desirability of moving the Government of India in the matter for the construction of such a line?

DR. BHOLA NATH BISWAS (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarkanath Barori): (a)(i) and (c)(i) to (iii) Yes.

(a)(ii)(1) Not yet.

(ii)(2), (b) and (d) Do not arise.

(c)(iv) The Government of Bengal consider that the alignment proposed by the Railway Administration is objectionable as being prejudicial to drainage and public health and should not be approved. If the Railway Administration can suggest an alternative alignment which does not interfere with the spill of water or with public health, the Government of Bengal would be prepared to consider it.

MR. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: With reference to answer (a) (ii) (1), namely, "Not yet"—বাদনীর মহাবিহার অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি, কি জন্য রাস্তাগুলি এখনও খোঁজা-খোঁজ করা হয় নাই?

DR. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Survey is being made and after the survey is over the question will be taken up whether it will be constructed or not.

MR. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: বাদনীর মহাবিহার অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি কোম কোম রাস্তা Survey হচ্ছে?

DR. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Dacca-Aricha Road.

MR. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when will the decision of the Government be made regarding the alignment?

DR. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Very shortly, probably before the rains.

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the answer of the first portion, namely, "Yes", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the decision taken to include the programme of construction of Dacca-Aricha motorable road in the programme of Provincial Highways?

DR. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Perhaps last year or year before last.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the decision was taken last year or year before last?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I am not definite.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they have any scheme so that they may suggest an alternative alignment which may be submitted to the Railway authorities for consideration?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: No.

Old and new scheme junior and senior madrasahs in Dinajpur district and constitution of District School Board, Dinajpur.

***134. Maulvi HASSAN ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

- (a) the present number of old scheme and new scheme junior and senior madrasahs in Dinajpur district, and how many of them receive Government grants-in-aid and what is the amount each gets per month;
- (b) whether the Dinajpur madrasahs get a lower rate of aid from Government in comparison with madrasahs in the other districts of the Province;
- (c) if so, why;
- (d) when the term of the duration of the present District School Board will expire;
- (e) whether and when election for reconstitution of the Board is going to take place;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the said election is going to be postponed; and
- (g) if so, why?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzam-uddin Hosain): (a)—

	Number of recognised madrasahs.
(i) High madrasahs	... 3
(ii) Junior madrasahs (new scheme)	... 47
(iii) Senior madrasahs (old scheme)	... Nil.
(iv) Junior madrasahs (old scheme)	... 2
(v) A statement regarding grants-in-aid to the madrasahs is laid on the Table.	
(b) The rates of grants-in-aid from Government to the madrasahs in the Dinajpur district are about the same as in other districts of this division.	
(c) The question does not arise.	
(d) The term expired on 9th September, 1946, but the members will continue till the names of new elected and appointed members are published in the Gazette.	
(e) Arrangements are being made to hold the elections.	
(f) No.	
(g) Does not arise.	

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 134.

Serial No.	Name of madrasahs.	Amount of total temporary grant received during 1945-46 out of the savings and the temporary additional allotment placed by the Director of Public Instruc- tion, Bengal.	
			Rs.
(1)	Chengram Junior Madrasah	...	300
(2)	Balder Girls' Junior Madrasah	...	504
(3)	Sarbamangala Junior Madrasah	...	450
(4)	Harirampur Junior Madrasah	...	300
(5)	Ekoi Mangalpur Junior Madrasah	...	350
(6)	Torrah Hafizia Junior Madrasah	...	300
(7)	Palashbari Girls' Junior Madrasah	...	600
(8)	Farshipara High Madrasah	...	120
(9)	Mashidpur Junior Madrasah	...	120
(10)	Kashidpur Junior Madrasah	...	50
(11)	Kushdaha Junior Madrasah	...	150
(12)	Mustafapur Junior Madrasah	...	300
(13)	Porsha Girls' Junior Madrasah	...	360

Serial No.	Name of Madrasahs.	Rate of monthly grant (permanent).
i) High Madrasah—		Rs.
(1)	Porsha High Madrasah	200
(2)	Farshipara High Madrasah	200
(3)	Deogaon High Madrasah	30*
ii) New Scheme Junior Madrasah—		
(1)	Chandardanga Junior Madrasah	24
(2)	Nurul Majid Junior Madrasah	30
(3)	Nurul Huda Junior Madrasah	45
(4)	Fulbari Junior Madrasah	60
(5)	Alokedih Junior Madrasah	30
(6)	Palashbari Junior Madrasah	35
(7)	South Palashbari Junior Madrasah	30
(8)	Kashidanga Junior Madrasah	30
(9)	Golaphag Junior Madrasah	42
(10)	Baragram Junior Madrasah	25
(11)	Moshidpur Junior Madrasah	30
(12)	Teghara Junior Madrasah	15
(13)	Mandani Naogaon Junior Madrasah	30
(14)	Mandani Junior Madrasah	30
(15)	Porsha Girls' Junior Madrasah	45
i) Senior Madrasah		Nil
v) Junior Madrasah Old Scheme—		
(1)	Begumbari Old Scheme Junior Madrasah	50†

*Plus 100 per mensem sanctioned out of additional allotment placed by Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

†For want of allotment only two old scheme junior madrasahs received ant-in-aid from Government in this Division.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many new Madrasahs have been started in the district of Dinajpur during the last year or the last two years?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the rate of grant to the junior madrasahs is higher than the rate of grant to the primary schools in this district?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Madrasah is a higher institution than the primary school. Therefore the grant should be higher.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the grants to the junior madrasahs are higher than the grants to the primary schools and that the grant to the high madrasahs is generally speaking higher than the grant to the high schools in existence in the district?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Not necessarily. But the requirements of the high madrasahs are generally higher than the requirements of high schools.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of introducing industrial and unani education in these junior madrasahs?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That question does not arise here in this connection, but Government will consider this question if it is brought before them.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any plan before the Government to introduce industrial and unani training in the madrasahs?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: There is no particular scheme for introducing industrial schemes in madrasahs but there is a general scheme for introducing industrial education along with general education.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the answer just given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say what are the reasons for him to say that madrasahs maintain a higher standard than the corresponding high schools?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I did not mean a higher standard, but the grant is higher on account of its more varied courses and syllabus.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of accepting the recommendations of the Sargent Committee and try to introduce industrial education in some of the madrasahs?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That question is not before the Government now.

Mr. SADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: With reference to the allotment shown in the statement of Rs. 120 for some madrasahs and of Rs. 500 in some other cases, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the causes of this differentiation?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: There is no differentiation. It was originally the junior madrasahs which enjoyed smaller grants, and when high madrasahs were started higher grants were made.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis this allotment of the grants was made to the madrasahs, because I find that in case of some junior madrasahs Rs. 300 has been granted while in case of some other madrasahs Rs. 150 only has been granted?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Grants are sanctioned by the Inspector of Schools on the merit of each case.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the fact that primary madrasah examination is equivalent to the ordinary primary school examination and in view of the fact that high madrasah examination is equivalent to the Matriculation Examination and students passing from there can change over to the general line, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why is it that Government considers that madrasahs maintain a higher standard so as to necessitate a higher grant?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I did not say a higher standard. What I say is that there are additional courses. Junior madrasah is never considered to be equivalent to any primary school but the high madrasah is equivalent to a High School. But for some additional subjects such as Arabic literature and other subjects an additional staff is necessary in the madrasah, and therefore a higher grant is made.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government to encourage these additional courses to pay additional grants for this purpose?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Government have accepted these courses prescribed by expert committees, and since the courses have been accepted they must be maintained.

Production, export and fixation of price of jute.

***135. Maulvi MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the actual produce of jute during the last three years and forecast of its produce during the current year in Bengal;
 - (ii) the number of jute mills in the Province owned by people of different communities to be shown separately, e.g., Hindus, Marwaris, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and other people, if any;
 - (iii) what were the foreign exports of jute from Bengal during the last five years and to what countries, showing the quantity exported to each country, each year; and
 - (iv) what policy the Government of Bengal intends to follow to tackle the jute problem regarding fixation of price in the Province?
- (b) Does the Government consider the desirability of—
- (i) fixing the minimum price of jute;
 - (ii) purchasing jute in case of necessity only when the private purchasers stop purchasing to lower down the price;

- (iii) introducing warehouse system as Government godown for facilitating Government policy rightly and properly;
- (iv) introducing uniform measures of weight of jute making 80 tolas a seer throughout the Province;
- (v) introducing the system for marketing facilities for jute;
- (vi) starting some jute mills in some jute-growing mofussil areas; and
- (vii) nationalising some jute mills of some foreign owners?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (a)(i)—

Crop year.	Actual produce (in bales of 400 lbs.)
1943-44	... 6,065,435
1944-45	... 5,531,450
1945-46	... 6,848,675

According to the Final Forecast as published by the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, dated the 27th September, 1946, the produce in Bengal during the current crop year (1946-47) is 4,481,390 bales.

(ii) It is not possible to state the number of jute mills in Bengal, community-wise, i.e., as separately owned by Hindus, Marwaris, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and other communities as share-holders of different mills consist of people belonging to different communities. A list of jute mills with the names of their respective Managing Agents or Secretaries as the case may be, as registered under the Factories Act in Bengal is laid on the Library Table.

(iii) A statement showing actual figures of sea-borne exports of raw jute from Bengal to different foreign countries during the five years, i.e., 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 is laid on the Library Table.

(iv) Government of Bengal have already secured the decontrol of jute prices, the result of which has been a sharp advance in prices reaching figures almost double of the controlled maximum levels. Government propose to take early steps for stabilisation of prices. Already a separate Jute Price Directorate has been set up under the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department and measures such as daily dissemination of the Calcutta prices of loose jute among the jute-growers of Bengal and organisation of jute grading parties in the jute-growing areas are being taken up for the general welfare of the growers. An expert committee is being constituted to advise Government on the desirability of setting up warehouses with a view to increase the general holding powers of the growers, to suggest ways and means for marketing of jute for their benefit and to examine the question of nationalising the jute trade. Government intend to give immediate consideration to the suggestions and recommendations of this committee.

(b) The valuable suggestions offered by the honourable member in this part of the question will be certainly considered by Government and the committee of experts which is being formed will be also asked to offer advice to Government in the light of these suggestions.

A bill for standardising weights and measures throughout the Province is expected to be introduced in the Legislature in the next session.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of nationalising jute and jute mill industry in this province in the public interest?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have already answered that Government propose to nationalise jute trade but the question of nationalising jute industry is a very big question and on some other occasion I will be able to enlighten the House about this.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who will be the members of the Expert Committee? Will any member of this House be included in the Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Who will be the members of the Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say offhand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the scheme of setting up warehouses Government is taking into consideration the existing warehouses which are already functioning in the province and not replacing them for the purpose of constructing new warehouses?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: As has already been pointed out, a committee is being appointed and that Committee will advise as to the machinery that will be set up and that committee will advise also as to whether warehouses will have to be built anew or some other device will be taken recourse to. This will be done according to the advice of the Committee.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether Government made any definite plans for the financing of storing of jute in order to increase the holding power of the jute-growers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will also be done according to the advice of the Expert Committee.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of ensuring that no communal consideration but the consideration of general welfare of the people will be the guiding principle of this scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, the general welfare of the jute-growers of Bengal—certainly.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the production of jute during the years mentioned in the answer was and is inadequate to meet the world demand for jute goods?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That was represented to the Government of Bengal and that is possibly one of the reasons why the acreage of jute has been fixed at 8 annas this year.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the expert committee will consider the question of equating jute production to the world demand for jute goods?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That will be considered by the Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when we can expect that jute trade will actually be nationalised?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: If I could do it today I would be very pleased to do that, but, after all, the question of financing, the question of procedure, the question of machinery and so many other things and also the question of advice that will be given to us by the experts are involved. It may not repeat the same story that was done years before by Rai Bahadur J. M. Mitra who was the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Government of Bengal do not want to make it the same sort of bungling affair. We know that jute trade is a very big affair and I am absolutely certain that if the Government of Bengal can nationalise this jute trade, we will be able to give crores of rupees to the people and it is possible also that we will be able to bring some money to the Government exchequer. It is all very well-known that this year the de-control of jute has given to the coffers of the Bengal peasants 40 to 50 crores of rupees.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present shortage in jute is due to the future selling by the European concerns and holding the stock from the market just to see that the prices go up and the cultivators forced to sell at any price?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That question I am not entitled to answer offhand. That has already been discussed and this question will be considered by the committee.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether with regard to the question of nationalisation of jute trade Government has under contemplation the nationalisation of foreign trade in jute as well including the finished goods of jute?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government have in view that jute from sowing to the marketing will be controlled by Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Including foreign trade and finished goods of jute mills.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, the Government machinery that will be set up will deal with whatever is sold to the jute mills and whoever will purchase from outside India.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the scheme of Government's contemplated nationalisation of jute trade in its entirety, as just suggested by the Hon'ble Minister, Government is also contemplating taking into consideration the reserve funds amassed by the jute mill owners?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The whole thing will be left to the expert committee and according to the advice of that committee Government will act.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of prohibiting export of reserve funds to foreign countries and into foreign banks?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Certainly Government will consider that.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the answer that he has just given that sowing of jute also will be nationalised? What does he exactly mean by that? Will he control sowing also?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: There is an Act by which sowing has already been controlled.

Gazetted officers under the Board of Revenue.

***138. Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(i) the total number of gazetted officers employed under the Board of Revenue and under the Director of Land Records, Bengal—Indian Civil Service, Bengal Civil Service and Bengal Junior Civil Service to be shown separately;

(ii) the number of them that are Muslims and Hindus; and

(iii) the period for which each officer has been under the Board and under the Director of Land Records?

(b) Is it a fact that an Assistant Manager was appointed as a Special Officer under the Board of Revenue at a monthly salary of Rs.800 with other allowances?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) who appointed him;

(ii) the reason for his appointment; and

(iii) for what period he has been appointed?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (a) A statement is laid on the Table.

(b) A Manager of a Court of Wards Estate was appointed as the Special Officer on a pay of Rs.600 per mensem which was subsequently raised to Rs.800 per mensem.

(c) (i) Government.

(ii) For the purpose of supervising the collection of rents and cesses in Court of Wards and Crown estates as well as certain loans issued by Government.

(iii) He was first appointed on 4th October, 1943. The present term of his appointment will expire on 28th February, 1947, which date has already expired but the incumbent will continue in his post till a substitute is found.

Statement referred to in clause (a) of starred question No. 136.

GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

	In the office of the Board of Revenue.			Under the Director of Land Records and Surveys.			In the other branches.		
	Mus-lim.	Non-Mus-lim.	Total.	Mus-lim.	Non-Mus-lim.	Total.	Mus-lim.	Non-Mus-lim.	Total.
I.C.S. (Senior) ..	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
I.C.S. (Junior) ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Listed post (Retired Officer re-employed).	1	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..
B. C. S. ..	2	1	3	..	5	5	..	1	1
B. C. S. (temporary) ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2
B. J. C. S. ..	..	..	..	9	12	21	4	6	10
B. J. C. S. (temporary) ..	..	..	..	4	9	13	2	1	3
Special Officer ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3	4	7	14	30	44	7	9	16

NAMES OF GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER THE BOARD OF REVENUE, BENGAL, AND THE DATE FROM WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING.

Name.	Designation.	Date from which employed.
<i>Board of Revenue.</i>		
(1) Mr. S. K. Haldar, C.I.E., I.C.S. ..	Member, Board of Revenue and <i>Ex-officio</i> Secretary to the Government of Bengal.	17-12-45
(2) Mr. A. S. Larkin, C.I.E., I.C.S. ..	Additional Member, Board of Revenue and <i>Ex-officio</i> Secretary to the Government of Bengal.	3-1-47
(3) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. Mahmud (Retired Magistrate and Collector).	Adviser, Court of Wards ..	22-11-44
(4) Khan Bahadur Mahbubuddin Ahmed (Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector).	Secretary, Board of Revenue and <i>Ex-officio</i> Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.	8-1-47
(5) Rai S. Das Gupta Bahadur (Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector).	Additional Secretary, Board of Revenue and <i>Ex-officio</i> Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.	1-3-45
(6) Khan Sahib Khalil Ahmed (Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector).	Second Additional Secretary, Board of Revenue and <i>Ex-officio</i> Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.	17-12-45
(7) Rai Sahib D. C. Dutta ..	Special Officer ..	4-10-48

Name.	Designation.	Date from which employed.
<i>Survey and Settlement.</i>		
(1) Rai Bahadur P. R. Das Gupta ..	Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bengal. Listed post.	9-2-44
(2) Babu S. K. Banerjee ..	Personal Assistant to the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.	9-7-43
(3) Rai Sahib S. N. Ray ..	Officer-in-charge, Bengal Drawing Office and Bengal Traverse Party, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.	14-7-41
(4) Mr. A. K. Mukherjea, I.C.S. ..	Settlement Officer, Bakarganj ..	12-11-45
(5) Mr. M. M. Sen, I.C.S. ..	Assistant Settlement Officer ..	23-2-46
(6) Khan Bahadur S. A. Majid ..	Special Officer, Sundarbans. Listed post.	15-10-40
(7) Rai Bahadur D. C. Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.	Land Revenue Settlement Officer ..	1-8-46
(8) Babu K. C. Barman, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.	Assistant Settlement Officer ..	23-2-46
(9) Babu S. N. Banerji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. (Temporary.)	Ditto	4-10-45
(10) Babu K. D. Ganguly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.	Ditto	1-1-47
(11) Maulvi A. N. M. Ali Akbar, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	2-8-46
(12) Maulvi Ahad Ali Khan, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	26-2-46
(13) Maulvi Shamsul Hussain, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto	22-10-45
(14) Maulvi Sadadur Rahman, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto	3-11-45
(15) Maulvi A. M. M. K. Masud, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	28-2-46
(16) Babu Hiralal Banerjee, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	16-4-46
(17) Maulvi Yusufuddin Pramanik, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto	19-4-46
(18) Maulvi A. M. M. Khan, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	25-2-46
(19) Babu Prafulla Chandra Sen, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	25-2-46
(20) Babu Krishna Kishore Kar, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	6-3-46
(21) Maulvi Syedur Rahman, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto	3-3-46

Name.	Designation.	Date from which employed.
(22) Maulvi Ahmeduddin Shah, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Assistant Settlement Officer ..	25-2-46
(23) Maulvi Md. Hussain Ali, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	28-11-45
(24) Babu R. S. Himangshu K. Adhikary, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	6-3-46
(25) Maulvi Tofazzal Hussain, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	3-10-43
(26) Babu Nikhilendra Nath Adhikary, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	12-11-45
(27) Babu Hiralal Chakrabarty, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	14-11-45
(28) Maulvi M. Islam, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	1-3-46
(29) Babu Samarendu Nath Das Gupta, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	18-5-46
(30) Babu Dharendra Kumar Sarkar, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	9-11-45
(31) Babu Umesh Chandra Chakraverty, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	26-10-45
(32) Babu Anukul Chandra Das Gupta, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	27-10-45
(33) Babu Rabindra Nath Chakraverty, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	22-10-45
(34) Babu Prakash Chandra Choudhury, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	10-12-45
(35) Mr. B. R. Khan, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	25-2-46
(36) Babu Priya Mohan Ghatak, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	27-8-45
(37) Babu Sarajulal Basu, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	25-11-45
(38) Babu Suhas Kumar Basu, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	7-11-45
(39) Babu Arunendu Das Gupta, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	25-2-46
(40) Babu Gokul Behari Basu, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	9-3-46
(41) Babu Ashutosh Mukherji, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	23-11-45
(42) Babu Animesh Chandra Singh Ray, Sub-Deputy Magistrate. (Temporary.)	Ditto ..	16-3-46
(43) Babu Pranabendra Prasad Pal, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	15-10-43
(44) Babu Ashutosh Chatterji, Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Ditto ..	1-3-44

Khasmahals.

Name.	Designation.	Date from which employed.
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Deputy Collector.

(1) Babu Sachindra Nath Mitra ..	Khas Mahal Officer, 24-Parganas ..	25-10-45
(2) Babu Prafulla Kumar Mukherjee. (Temporary Deputy Collector.)	Khas Mahal Officer, Contai, Midnapore	(a)
(3) Maulvi Nazir Ahmed. (Temporary Deputy Collector.)	Khas Mahal Officer, Faridpur ..	3-6-46

Sub-Deputy Collector.

(4) Maulvi Nur Muhammad Choudhury	Khas Mahal Officer, Bakarganj ..	(a)
(5) Maulvi Samiruddin Shah ..	Khas Mahal Officer, Chittagong ..	(a)
(6) Mr. Gregory Gomes ..	Khas Mahal Officer, Noakhali ..	20-5-46
(7) Babu Satish Chandra Chanda ..	Khas Mahal Officer, Jalpaiguri ..	8-11-44
(8) Babu Jatindra Mohan Chakraborty	Khas Mahal Officer, Fabna ..	22-8-45
(9) Babu Nihar Bindu Roy. (Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector.)	Khas Mahal Officer, Tippera ..	14-12-42
(10) Babu Ramendu Sen ..	Khas Mahal Circle Officer, Matbaria, Bakarganj.	24-5-46
(11) Babu Hemanta Kumar Roy ..	Colonisation Officer, 24-Parganas ..	24-2-46
(12) Maulvi Salehuddin Ahmed ..	Colonisation Officer, Khepupara, Bakarganj.	6-2-46
(13) Maulvi A. F. M. Islam ..	Khas Mahal Circle Officer, Sadar, Bakarganj.	18-12-44
(14) Maulvi Md. Abdullah. (Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector.)	Khas Tahsildar, Sadar, Chittagong ..	28-9-46
(15) Babu Surendra Kumar Sur ..	Khas Tahsildar, Kutubdia, Chittagong	1-3-44
(16) Maulvi Md. Amanatullah. (Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector.)	Khas Tahsildar, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong.	23-4-45

(a) Appointment notification issued on 28th November, 1946.

Recruitment of Munsifs.

* 137. **MR. AULAD HOSSAIN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(i) the present total number of Munsifs in the Province and the number of them that are—

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Muslims, and
- (3) Scheduled Castes;

(ii) the number of Munsifs that were last recruited; and

(iii) the number of them that are—

- (1) Hindus,
- (2) Muslims, and
- (3) Scheduled Castes?

(b) If no Muslim candidate was recruited during the last recruitment, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: (a)(i) Two hundred and twenty-eight Munsifs and 21 probationary Munsifs—

- (1) One hundred and thirty-seven Munsifs and 10 probationary Munsifs.
- (2) Eighty-two Munsifs and 7 probationary Munsifs.
- (3) Eight Munsifs and 4 probationary Munsifs.

There is one Munsif who is an Indian Christian.

(ii) Three.

(iii) Three Hindus.

(b) No suitable candidate was recommended by the Public Service Commission, Bengal. The Commission has been asked to readvertise the vacancies reserving them for Muslims.

Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether some first class candidates appeared before the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I am not aware. I want notice.

Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Public Service Commission did not recommend a single Muslim? What is the reason?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: That is a matter which rests with the Public Service Commission.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain what he exactly meant by the word "vacancies" in his reply (b) and how many vacancies are yet in existence to be filled up?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Only three vacancies.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is desirable to hamper the freedom of the Public Service Commission by reserving now the vacancies only for Muslims when the Public Service Commission did not find any suitable Muslim candidates for the posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Government have to look into the matter of communal ratio. So these posts have been reserved for Muslims.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the present Public Service Commission is an anti-Muslim body and always takes the plea that no suitable Muslim candidates are available?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Muslim applicants were there for these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of enforcing communal ratio rules so far as the posts of Munsifs are concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Yes.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to enforce the communal ratio rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Government have already taken this step for reserving those vacancies for Muslim candidates.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: In spite of the fact that first class candidates appeared before the Public Service Commission, when the Government says that suitable candidates were not available, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: They have been asked to re-advertise the posts.

Inconveniences of steamer passengers from Narayanganj and Chandpur to Goalundo.

***138. Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA:** (a). Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the Government is aware—

- (i) that on 21st June, 1946, many passengers at Tarpasha station who were booked for different places were prevented from embarking on Narayanganj Down Express steamer by the servants of the company; and
 - (ii) that Express steamer running from Narayanganj and Chandpur to Goalundo almost always run overcrowded and those steamers carry eggs, fish, chickens, etc., emitting bad smell causing much inconvenience to third class passengers?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of removing the abovementioned grievances immediately?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a)(i) Yes, owing to insufficient vacant space on the steamer all passengers wishing to embark could not be accommodated.

(ii) Due to considerable increase in passenger traffic as compared with pre-war days the Express Service steamers run almost to their full licensed capacity but not in excess of it. No goods are carried in contravention of the provisions of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917, and the rules made thereunder.

(b) Government consider that increased facilities for passengers are required, but no improvement is possible until the steamers that were requisitioned by the military are returned to the company. The steamer companies have been asked to make arrangements for carrying perishable commodities like fish, egg, etc., at the after end of their vessels so that when under way any obnoxious odours emitted by such goods are left astern.

May I add to my replies that at the present moment the Steamer Company has provided an extra steamer to run as Dacca-Goalundo-Narayanganj Express steamer and also another as a Goalundo-Chandpur special steamer.

MR. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: বান্দীর যতীমহাশয় অনু-
গ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে জোর করে বাধা দিতে গিয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ force apply করেছিলেন?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Sir, I have got no information to that.

MR. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: বান্দীর যতীমহাশয় অনু-
গ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে প্রথমে টিকিট বিক্রয় করে পরে বাধা দেওয়ার কালে এক partyর লোক ভিলু ভিলু
হয়ে যায় ও নানা অস্থিতির পড়ে?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Government has got no information.

MR. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble
Minister be pleased to state when the steamers are expected to be released by
the Military?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I have already added that the Company has got
two more extra steamers running on the line as special steamers.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be
pleased to state how many steamers were requisitioned by the Military for
military purposes?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be
pleased to state how many of them have been derequisitioned up till this
time?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Some of them have returned and therefore you
can get an extra steamer on both the services.

MR. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Will the Hon'ble Minister
please explain what does he mean by the term "licensed capacity"?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Because every vessel has got a licence to carry
so many tons or so many maunds.

MR. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Will the Hon'ble Minister
be pleased to tell us the maximum number of passengers accommodated in
the express steamer according to the licensed capacity?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

MR. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: বান্দীর যতীমহাশয়
বলবেন কি যে Passenger Steamerএর মাল চলাচল বন্ধ করার জন্য Government কোন চেষ্টা করেছেন
কি না?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Sir, it is allowed by the Company's Act to carry
the goods.

MR. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: হ্যাঁ এটা Actএ আছে
বটে কিন্তু আমি জানতে চাই Government এটা বন্ধ করার চেষ্টা করেছেন কি না তাই আমি জানতে চাই?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I do not think so.

MR. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: বান্দীর যতীমহাশয় বলবেন কি
(a) (ii)তে যে উক্ত বেওয়া হয়েছে এটা কি তাঁরা ট্রান্স কোম্পানীর কাছ হতে সংগ্রহ করেছেন?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Not only that, we have got information from
the Commander of the R.I.N. Principal Officer.

MR. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased
to state whether men also are included in the category of goods?

MR. K. NASARULLA: It is common sense and you can yourself judge.

Sufferings of travelling public in Calcutta due to shortage of public vehicles.

***139. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Transport) Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of the sufferings of the travelling public of Calcutta in tram cars and motor buses?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken or intend to take to mitigate the sufferings of the travelling public in the city?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the number of motor buses and tram cars has been increased in proportion to the increased demands of the travelling public?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of taking such steps as to increase the number of tram cars and motor buses to the proportionate demands of the public in the city?

(f) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of motor buses actually plying in the city of Calcutta and the number of licences granted up to date and whether new licences are being granted to motor bus owners to mitigate the sufferings of the public.

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy):

(a) Yes.

(b) The number of public vehicles in the city is short of the requirements of the vastly expanding traffic, mainly due to increased population and diminished frequency of bus services due to the restrictions on petrol supplies.

(c) Apart from releasing buses requisitioned for A.R.P. and other civil defence purposes, 169 additional buses have already been put on the road. Steps have also been taken by the Tramway authorities to put additional tram cars on the street to supplement the existing tram services.

(d) No.

(e) With the gradual relaxation of the restrictions regarding supplies of petrol, the existing buses will be able to perform greater number of trips at more frequent intervals thus relieving the present congestion which is particularly heavy during the present peak travelling hours in the morning and evening. The question of augmenting the services by other means is also under the consideration of Government.

(f) The number of buses is 686, inclusive of 169 additional buses for which new licences were granted.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: শাহবীর মহীমহানর অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে Tram Strike হওয়ার দরুন Passengerদের অসুবিধা অনেক বেড়ে গিয়েছে কি না ?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: নিচরই।

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what other means of augmenting the services are under the consideration of Government?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The other means are to increase the number of taxis and buses.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The number of cycle-rickshaws?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No.

MR. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these buses belong to Bengalis and how many to Sikhs and Punjabis?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

MR. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will consider the desirability of total abolition of restrictions on petrol supply?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Gradually it will come to that, as soon as we get increased quantity of petrol for Bengal.

MR. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any step is being taken to nationalise the transport services of the city?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Government is thinking of that.

MR. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: বান্দীর বহীবাহার অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি Tram Strike বন্ধ করার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করেছেন কি না?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow the question.

MR. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many passengers were injured due to the rush of passengers in buses?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I don't think it arises.

MR. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (c), viz., "The question of augmenting the services by other means is also under the consideration of Government", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how they are going to augment that services—I mean what are the means they are thinking of?

MR. K. NASARULLA: I have already answered that.

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to his previous answer that the question of increasing the number of taxis and buses is being considered as a means of augmenting the services, whether an increase in the number of tram cars is also under the consideration of Government and also the question of enabling tram cars to ply earlier?

MR. K. NASARULLA: When the tram strike will be over naturally we will try to have more tram cars.

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he expects the tram strike to be over?

MR. K. NASARULLA: As soon as those who are encouraging the tram strikers will stop giving encouragement to them.

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the serious inconvenience suffered by the public, what steps Government are considering to take to bring the tram strike to an early settlement?

MR. K. NASARULLA: Government are not taking any steps, and unless the public come forward, Government can do nothing.

(Cries of shame, shame.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the definite decision of Government that Government is not going to take any step to bring the strike to an early termination and thus relieve the traffic congestion in the city?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Negotiation is going on.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Improvement of Satkhira-Itinda Road.

46. Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings (Communications) Department aware—

(i) of the present impassable condition of the Satkhira-Itinda Road; and

(ii) that this is the only metalled road connecting Khulna to Calcutta?

(b) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of improving this important road this year just after monsoon from the Provincial Road Development Fund?

MINISTER-in-charge of the WORKS and BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarakanath Barori): (a)(i) It is not a Government road but a District Board one. The road is reported to have been damaged but communication along the road has never been fully stopped.

(ii) No. There is another fairweather road to Calcutta *via* Nabharan for the people of Satkhira subdivision in Khulna district.

(b) The road has been included in the Public Works Development Scheme and will be taken up in its turn. Till then, its maintenance and repair will continue to be with the District Boards concerned.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer in the second paragraph (ii), viz., "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for not expediting this matter?

(No answer.)

(At this stage unstarred question No. 47 was called.)

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to answer (a)(ii), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what relief was sent?

(On unstarred question No. 46.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I was waiting for an answer to my question. We could not understand whether any Hon'ble Minister was present or anybody else was responsible to answer the question on his behalf.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: My friend could not put the question. The question that he put was like a *gol-aloo*. We are now in the midst of Question No. 47.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have now come to Question No. 47.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, nobody got up to answer that question.

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: No supplementary question was put on this question at all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What was your question?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: My question was put. The Hon'ble Minister now says that no question was put. My question was put such a long time ago that I will have to re-frame it. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many roads there are connecting Khulna to Calcutta?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: That question does not arise at all.

Construction of road from Chittagong town up to borders of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

47. Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that in the recent Chittagong flood for want of a motorable overland route Rangunia was completely cut off from Headquarter for over seven days; and

(ii) that no relief could reach there for the distressed people?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take up a scheme for constructing a road from Chittagong town *via* Karnafully Bridge through Boalkhali, police-station Sharebatta, Shilock, Kodala up to the border of Chittagong Hill Tracts parallel to the river Karnafully?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: (a) (i) Yes, Rangunia was inaccessible for 3 days only and that was on account of strong river current.

(ii) It is not a fact that relief could not reach there. Relief supplies were dropped by air and also sent by river from Rangamati.

(b) No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: With reference to answer (a) (ii) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what relief was sent?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: With reference to answer (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why does he not consider it necessary to take up the scheme mentioned therein?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: In public interest.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many persons were killed by the throwing of sack loads of paddy and other things?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I disallow this question. Next question.

Post-War Road Plan, Chittagong district.

48. Mr. AHMED KABIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

(a) what are the roads empanelled for construction or reconstruction in the district of Chittagong under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme;

(b) whether the Arakan Road started from Pathorghatta, Chittagong, extending up to the Tumbughat, the extreme southern part of the district, through Patya, Dohazari, Ramu and Ukhia is included in the list;

- (c) what are the names of the roads of which Government intends to take up the work of construction or reconstruction in the district of Chittagong under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme during the first 5 years;
- (d) whether Chandpur to Chunati named Rampur Road, Chandpur to Barabakia named Zaldi Road, and Satkania-Banskhali Road in the district of Chittagong are included;
- (e) whether Government are aware of the gradual deterioration of the Arakan Road in the district of Chittagong from after the war;
- (f) what steps are being taken for proper maintenance of the road;
- (g) whether any scheme or amount has been sanctioned for construction of bridge over the Dalu at Satkania in the district of Chittagong; and
- (h) if so, when the Government intend to commence the work?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: (a) The Post-War Road Development Programme of the Chittagong district includes proposals for improvement and construction of about 400 miles of higher category roads and about 550 miles of village roads.

(b) and (e) Yes.

(c) and (d) As the disclosure of the names of the roads at present is likely to give rise to speculation in lands in the locality and consequent increase in the costs of land acquisition, it is not in the public interests to disclose them now. I may, however, assure the honourable member that the views of the local authorities and the needs of the public were considered in detail in drawing up the plans.

(f) The road has been taken over by Government for maintenance during 1946-47. The question of continuing it further will be considered after the Government of India have finally decided about the alignment of a National Highway from India to Burma.

(g) The construction of the bridge is included in the programme.

(h) The time for taking up the work has not yet been fixed.

Alignment of National Highway in Jamalpur subdivision, Mymensingh.

49. Mr. F. RAHMAN (Mymensingh): Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings (Communications) Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is any scheme of any National Highway passing through Pakshimari-Sharmara road in Jamalpur subdivision of Mymensingh;
- (b) if so, whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that some portion of the above road is now river-bed of Brahmaputra and as a result of that, a diversion is necessary; and
- (c) if so, whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of diverting the road through Sherpur town to meet a pressing demand of that area?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: (a) and (b) Yes. But survey of the alignment has been kept in abeyance at present under the orders of the Government of India.

(c) The question of a suitable alignment will be considered when survey of the alignment is resumed.

Paper dealers in Bengal.

50. Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

- (a) how many distributors (dealers) of paper there are in Bengal giving their names and addresses and showing separately names of mills from which they are supplied;
- (b) how many wholesale dealers of papers there are for Calcutta giving their names and addresses;
- (c) what principle is followed for appointing distributors and wholesale dealers of paper and whether any Communal Ratio Rules is observed or not; if not, giving reasons therefor; and
- (d) how many officers there are under the Special Officer, Paper Control Bengal, showing number separately—
 - (i) Caste Hindus,
 - (ii) Schedule Castes, and
 - (iii) Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (a) Seventy-five. A list showing the names and addresses is laid on the Library Table.

(b) Sixty-one. Distributors as shown under (a) in the list are wholesale dealers.

(c) The distributors are appointed by mills and this Government at the suggestion of the Government of India does not interfere as normal trade channels would otherwise be affected. The question of communal ratio therefore does not arise. This is the present procedure that is being followed, but I shall examine the suggestions made.

	Chief Inspector.	Inspectors.	Assistant Inspectors.
(d) (i)	1	4	6
(ii)	Nil.	Nil.	2
(iii)	Nil	4	6

The deficiency of one Scheduled Caste Inspector and one Muslim Assistant Inspector is due to non-availability of suitable candidates. Attempts are being made to remove the deficiency by recruitment of suitable candidates of the communities concerned.

Enquiries into the activities of Kishoreganj Subdivisional Wholesalers' Co-operative Multipurpose Society, Ltd.

51. Mr. RATANLAL BRAHMAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that inquiries were made into the activities of the Kishoreganj Subdivisional Wholesalers' Co-operative Multipurpose Society, Ltd., in 1945, by Enforcement Department, Civil Supplies?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the result of the enquiry was made public?

(c) If not; will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he proposes to make fresh inquiries into the activities of the Multipurpose Society?

MINISTER-in-charge of the CO-OPERATION, CREDIT and RELIEF DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The result of the enquiry was not made public as it was not a public enquiry.

(d) No.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: With reference to answer (a) মাননীয় মহানিহাদেশ বলবেন কি যে কিশোরগঞ্জে Multipurpose Societyতে যে একটি enquiry হয়েছিল, সেটা কি জন্ম হয়েছিল?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I could not follow.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: With reference to question (a), namely, if it is a fact that an enquiry has been made into the activities of the Kishoreganj Sub-divisional Wholesalers' Co-operative Multipurpose Society, Ltd. “উত্তরে বলা হয়েছে “yes”। কি কারণে বশত: enquiry হয়েছিল তা আমরা জানতে পারি কি?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: There were certain irregularities for which an enquiry was made.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহানিহাদেশ বলবেন কি এড Complaintএর খাতিরি কি?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I am not aware of it.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: তাহলে কি enquiryর report মহানিহাদেশ দেখেন নাই?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Yes, I have seen the report. It was not a public enquiry.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহানিহাদেশ বলবেন কি যে Complaintএর দ্বারা report পড়লে জানা যায় কি না?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: It was not mentioned under which section it was made.

Under-trial prisoners arrested in connection with riot at Lahuria, Jessore.

52. Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether the under-trial prisoners arrested in connection with the riot at Lahuria Gobindapara, police-station Lohagara, Jessore, are ill-treated in *hajat* and forced to do works in the sub-jail of Narail?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME (JAILS) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether some under-trial prisoners were asked to draw water from the adjacent river?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that under-trial prisoners are made to do labour while in custody for trial?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Has he made any enquiries on the point?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What are the results of his enquiry.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The reply is there.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Whether the Hon'ble Minister has ascertained the fact that the under trial prisoners are made to do labour while they are held as under-trials?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The question is there, the answer is there. After enquiry the answer was framed and after enquiry it has been found that no such thing occurred with regard to the under-trial prisoners there.

Supplementary Estimate of the Government of Bengal for the year 1946-47.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.66,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax" during the current year.

(The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Ruling on the Points of Order raised by Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose in connection with the presentation of the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The two points of order raised yesterday in connection with the presentation of the Supplementary Estimates may briefly be stated as follows:—(1) presentation of the Supplementary Estimates after the expenditure to which estimates relate have been incurred in part or in whole, and (2) impropriety and irregularity of Grants Nos. 20 and 22 in respect of Heads of Grants Nos. 37 and 38 of the Annual Budget.

As I said yesterday, the points are not new in this House although Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose contended that his second point of order was new. I shall presently show that the subject matter of Mr. Ghose's second point of order is not without precedent in this House. So far as the first point of order is concerned it was dealt with elaborately on previous occasions. While it is a sound principle to expect that the Supplementary Estimates should be placed before the House before any expenditure is incurred, the House has to take into consideration the practical difficulties in fulfilling the expectation. Whatever may be the plain meaning of the expression "estimated amount of that expenditure" occurring in section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the interpretation has got to be given with reference to rule 17(I) of the Governor's Rules made under section 84 of the said Act. In that rule the expression "supplementary statement of expenditure" without reference to estimates contemplates certain expenditure being incurred before the supplementary estimates are presented. It is, however, desirable that the supplementary estimates should be placed before the House at an earlier stage of the year, if for unavoidable reasons Government is not compelled to come towards the close of the year. In this connection the argument advanced by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister seems to be reasonable, so far as the supplementary estimates of this year are concerned,

and in view of the assurance given by him and the practice prevailing in this House for a very long time, I do not think there is any necessity for giving any direction from the Chair.

Regarding the second point it is no doubt a wholesome principle that the supplementary estimate should be presented either (1) for a further grant to an existing service in addition to the sum already voted for the current financial year; or (2) for a grant caused by a fresh occasion for an expenditure that has arisen since the presentation of the sessional estimates. In English practice the presentation of the supplementary estimates for a grant caused by a fresh occasion for expenditure is possible and the circumstances under which such presentation should be made are not exhaustive. It seems impossible in practice to establish any distinction between "new service not included in the ordinary estimates of the year" and "new matter not included in the original estimates of the year". Application in practice of embodying a new matter is governed by paragraphs 2 and 9 of Standing Order No. 14 of the House of Commons as quoted by Mr. Ghose. There discussion is allowed in the Committee. In our House also discussion is allowed on supplementary estimates presented before the House, and as such the House has the right of discussion of a new matter, if any. The effect of the supplementary estimates, as has been presented before the House, is not to upset the financial proposal placed before the House in the annual budget nor is there any curtailment of the primary control of the House on the expenditure. This may be objectionable in principle though often unavoidable in practice. There is a precedent in this House which may be found on reference to the proceedings dated the 31st March, 1941, Volume 59, pages 181-164. Government presented before the House a supplementary estimate for a considerable amount for the year 1940-41 on the 3rd February, 1941. This estimate did not contain any sum under the head "57—Miscellaneous". Subsequently on the 31st March, 1941, Government again presented before the House a second supplementary estimate for only one item, namely, under the head "57—Miscellaneous"—Sub-head J—Contributions containing an estimate of rupee one. In the explanatory memorandum Government noted that this demand of rupee one was made for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the Legislature to the payment of a contribution to the Calcutta Mayor's Fund for the relief of London air-raid victims. The House granted the supply under this new sub-head dealing with a new matter at the fag end of the year which could have been included in the annual financial statement of the coming year which was following immediately. So there is no irregularity in view of the precedent of this House. Mr. Ghose has also objected to the irregularity in respect of the demand for 38—Medical, Grant No. 22. No objection can be taken by the House for inclusion of any item under a major head for administrative convenience and purpose. Propriety or otherwise of the course adopted lies with the administrative departments. Members are not entitled to alter the destination of a grant under rule 107(2) of our rules and as such the objection does not stand.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 66,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,47,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" during the current year.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,47,000 for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this to raise a discussion about (a) the grievances of the stamp-vendors in the matter of discount, etc., (b) the grievances of the public in the matter of insufficient and irregular supply in rural areas, and black-marketing by the stamp-vendors.

বিঃ শীকার, স্যার, সরকারী কর্মচারীদের মধ্যে যারা নিম্ন বেতনভোগী তাদের প্রতি সরকারের দৃষ্টি যেমন সর্বশ্রু অঙ্ক টিক ডেমনি সরকারের বাল নিয়ে কমিশন Basisএ যারা উপার্জন করে যার তাদের প্রতিও সরকারের দৃষ্টি ডেমনি অঙ্ক, বিশেষ করে Stamp Venderদের প্রতি। বড় বড় যে সমস্ত Company agency নিয়ে বিরাট পরিমাণে টাকা পয়সা নিয়ে কারবার করে, যেমন ধানের ব্যাপারী, চালের ব্যাপারী, সবকার তাদের কমিশন দেন খুব মোটা হারে, কিন্তু এই দরিদ্র Stamp Venderরা দীর্ঘদিন যাবৎ সরকারের নিকট আবেদন করেও কোন ফল পাচ্ছে না। সরকারের Stampএর বজ্রদে আয় বৎসরের পর বৎসর বেড়ে যাচ্ছে, কিন্তু Stamp Venderদের কমিশন ব্যাপারে সরকার সম্পূর্ণ অনমনোযোগী। ১৯২২-২৩ সাল হতে Stamp Venderদের কমিশন বিলুমাত্র বাড়ান হয় নাই, কিন্তু সরকারের আয় যথেষ্ট বেড়ে গেছে। আজকাল এই দুর্ভুলাতের দিনেও পুরণ কমিশনে কাজ করা Stamp Venderদের পক্ষে কতদূর কষ্টকর Assemblyর প্রত্যেক মেম্বর নিশ্চয়ই তা অনুভব করতে পারেন। Stamp Venderরা ব্যবসার গড়ণ-বেটের কাছে ত্বরিত করেছে, Representation পাঠিয়েছে, কিন্তু এ পর্যন্ত তাদের Representationএর প্রতি কোনরূপ কণ্ঠস্ব পাওয়া যায় নাই। আমরা শুনতে পাই গত তিন বৎসর আগে গড়ণবেট তাদের কমিশন বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হবে এই আশ্বাস দিয়েছিলেন এবং তাই এই ভুয়া আশ্বাসের উপর নির্ভর করে আছে, কিন্তু এই তিন বৎসরে তাদের কমিশনের হাথ বিলুমাত্র বাড়ান হয় নাই। ডেমনি দান বাড়িয়ে সরকার এক পয়সার স্থলে দুই পয়সা করছেন এবং নিজ আয়ের পথ পরিষ্কার করেছেন; কিন্তু যে সমস্ত লোকের সাহায্যে সরকার এই আয় সংগ্রহ করেন সেই সমস্ত দরিদ্র Stamp Venderএর প্রতি সরকারের দৃষ্টি অত্যন্ত নিশ্চল। Stamp Venderরা সাধারণতঃ প্রত্যাশা করে যে আজকাল দুর্ভুলাতের বাজারে অন্যান্য সরকারী কর্মচারীদের যেমন Dearness allowance প্রদত্তির ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে ঠিক সেই যুক্তিতে Stamp Venderদের উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে কমিশনের ব্যবস্থা সরকার করবেন। সরকার এখাবং এটা না করার দরুণ বাংলার পল্লী অঞ্চলের লোক নামা রকম অসুবিধা ভোগ করতে বাধ্য হচ্ছে। যদি তাদের পেট না ভরে তাহলে তাদের Black marketএ Stamp বিক্রয় করতে হয় এবং এই Black marketএ Stamp বিক্রয় করা বাংলার প্রায় সকল প্রান্তে একটা নিয়ম হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। Stamp Venderদের এই দুরবস্থার প্রতি সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করবার জন্য আমি এই টানটি পুস্তক উপস্থাপন করছি। আমি আশা করি সরকার বাংলার জনসাধারণকে Stampএর ব্যাপারে এই Black marketএর হাত হতে বাঁচাবেন। Stamp সরবরাহের ব্যাপারে সরকার যে অকৃতকাধতার ও অযোগ্যতার পরিচয় দিয়েছেন তা আমি সমর্থন করিয়ে দিতে চাই। গ্রামাঞ্চলে Stamp সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা অত্যন্ত পারাপ, অধিকাংশ জায়গায় Stamp Venderরা সরকারী অফিসে দৌড়োড়ি করে Stamp সংগ্রহ করতে পারে না। এবং Stamp সরবরাহ অত্যন্ত মূল্য হওয়ায় দরুণ Stamp Black marketএ বিক্রয় হয়। আমার মনে হয় সাম্প্রদায়িক নীতিতে সরকার পরিচালিত হওয়ার ফলে প্রত্যেকটি বিষয়ে সরকারের অযোগ্যতা আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি। Stamp সরবরাহ ব্যাপারেও সরকারের এই অযোগ্যতা সম্পূর্ণ পরিস্ফুট।

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, no instance of black-marketing has been reported to Government, but if any specific instance is brought to the notice of Government, Government will certainly see that there is no black-marketing in the province. With regard to the inadequacy of the discount or commission given to stamp vendors I may inform the House that Government are examining the question and, if necessary, Government will revise the rules to enable them to draw a higher discount. But in this connection I may tell the House that as demands for stamps have gone up higher, naturally the vendors are getting more money by way of commission. But nevertheless Government realises the fact that cost of living has gone up very high and it is necessary to revise the discount rate so that it may become attractive to vendors. When the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited Noakhali there was a certain complaint made to him regarding the non-availability of stamps by the evacuation of Hindu stamp vendors from that area. The matter was enquired into but the situation has now become normal and the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that

there is no dearth of stamps there. Apart from that no other complaint has reached Government except that we did receive another complaint from Rajshahi Bar Association who said that the discount rate was insufficient and not attractive to vendors. That question has been examined by Government, and Government will see that the rates are revised, if necessary. In view of what I have said I hope the House will see its way to accept my motion.

The motion of Mr. Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya that the demand of Rs. 2,47,000 for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" during the current year, be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 2,47,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 24,04,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" during the current year.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 24,04,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about unjustified firing on students and peasants in the district of Mymensingh and the indiscriminate arrest of student and other political workers by the Government.

Sir, the other day the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a statement on the floor of the House in which he tried to justify the firing on the peaceful student processionists in the town of Mymensingh and the peasants of Susang area. His statement is no doubt based on the reports of the officers who were responsible for the misdeed and his one-sided statement satisfied none but himself and some of his followers whose existence depends on the Imperialist and bureaucratic method in checking popular movements.

Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a misstatement and distorted the facts regarding the firing incident in the town of Mymensingh. The real fact is that a peaceful procession of the students, both Hindu and Muslim, came out on the 22nd of January last to signify their protest against the police firing in Calcutta on the Viet Nam Day on the 21st of January, 1947. The procession was absolutely peaceful. When it was passing through the Kutchery Road it was suddenly stopped by the police and a number of students were arrested without any reason whatsoever. We came to know afterwards that these arrests were made under order of the overzealous Additional District Magistrate, Mr. Majumdar. Other students demanded the release of their comrades most peacefully. A good number of students assembled there and the situation became a bit tense. The leaders of the Congress and the Muslim League and other political organisations including some Congress and Muslim League M.L.A.'s and M.L.C.'s approached the District Magistrate and the Additional District Magistrate with a request to let off the arrested students and they assured that the situation would certainly improve thereby. But all their good counsels and entreaties fell on deaf ears. Suddenly the Additional District Magistrate ordered for a *lathi* charge on the young, innocent and unarmed students. When the students were being dispersed, the police began to throw brickbats. The brickbats thrown by the police hit the mob which was composed of non-students, and they replied the police attack by a shower of brickbats. Thereupon the police fired upon the students killing one and wounding many including several girl students. After this firing by the police the mob violence began and several Government buildings were burnt down. It is

known to all that the mob violence was not perpetrated by the students—it was perpetrated by the infuriated mob composed mostly of non-students and it began after the Government resorted to firing on the students and murdering one and wounding many others.

Sir, the situation came under control then and there. But the ways of the bureaucrats are peculiarly in keeping with the tradition of the Nazis and the Fascists. Bureaucratic terrorism went on in full swing in the town in the form of promulgation of section 144, Cr.P.C., curfew, indiscriminate arrests of political workers and recently the operation of the Special Powers Ordinance in the town of Mymensingh.

Sir, yesterday my friend Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta referred to the incident of Susang and gave a true analysis of the situation when he said that Government allowed the grievances of peasants to accumulate, Government allowed the agitators to take advantage of their grievance and instigate the simple aboriginal folks to mob violence. Then the police would appear in the scene to shoot and persecute the people who had real grievance. The policy of the Government is to allow a situation to be created for taking drastic steps in the form of shooting and persecuting the people. The Government could have avoided these unpleasant things if it had a mind to anticipate things and if it had certain amount of imagination. But this Government is mainly based on narrow selfishness, communalism, nepotism, corruption and nothing can be expected from them till they are brought to their senses by a rude shock from the sensible people of this province irrespective of their communities.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while according my wholehearted support to the motion moved by my friend Mr. Adhikari, at the outset I beg to state that I was myself an eye-witness to that tragedy involving the death of one young student and causing injuries to many students including a girl student.

Sir, the salient points are these in brief. In Mymensingh before 22nd January there was no ban against procession, no ban against meetings. So everybody, every person, every institution had the right to conduct processions, conduct meetings, anywhere they would like. In accordance with that the Mymensingh students took out a procession on 22nd January quite lawfully and peacefully. They were passing along many thoroughfares without any disturbance to anybody, without causing annoyance to anybody, but, Sir, all on a sudden when that procession was passing by the Collectorate buildings the police pounced upon the procession abruptly for no rhyme or reason. On hearing this news I myself rushed to the spot. I met the District Magistrate, I met the Additional District Magistrate, I met the Superintendent of Police and all other officials present there. I accosted them, I asked the reason for their abrupt arrest, but the District Magistrate could not explain anything. He pleaded ignorance as did all other officials present there. They were not in a position to state how the arrest took place. Then we demanded the immediate release of those arrested students and I am glad to state here that the Secretary of the Mymensingh Muslim League and a member of the Upper House, Mr. Giasuddin Pathan, joined us in this demand. We jointly made a demand before the Magistrate that "You cannot account for the reasons of this arrest; so these persons should be at once set at liberty and everything will be peaceful", but in keeping with the dark bureaucratic tradition the District Magistrate paid a deaf ear to the earnest appeals of responsible public leaders like Mr. Giasuddin Pathan and two other members of this House, my humble self and my friend Mr. Binode Chakrabarty. Then, Sir, we tried to reason out with the District Magistrate and in the meantime a vast crowd assembled there and the atmosphere was getting very much disturbing. I warned the District

Magistrate against any worse development, still he was persistent in his obduracy in not hearing the appeals of the public leaders. Then all on a sudden *lathi* charge took place, indiscriminate *lathi* charge, and as soon as *lathi* charge took place the whole crowd was melting away and the whole crowd was retreating as will be evident from the marks of bullet wounds, from the medical record. Sir, it is a significant fact that all the bullet injuries were found on the back-sides of the injured. That shows that bullets were fired on the backs of the persons injured. So, Sir, the bullets were fired upon the retreating mob and I can challenge the District Magistrate or any other authority to disprove what I say because at the time when the firing took place there was a distance of hundreds of yards between the police and the crowd. There was no danger to the life of any official or to damage of any Government property. So, there was no reason, there can be no justification, no warrant for suddenly firing upon the students without any plausible cause.

Sir, the whole incident took place in mid-day in the presence of a host of lawyers, in the presence of countless litigants, in the presence of the District Judge. I am sure, Sir, if a public enquiry is held the District Judge himself will come out and will testify to what I am saying here. So, Sir, my point is this, that immediately after the incident the Bar Association met, the Muktear Association met and all other public institutions of Mymensingh met and in a joint voice they demanded an immediate enquiry into the incident and they were of opinion that police firing was quite unjustified, quite unwarranted. So, Sir, in the name of justice I demand of this Ministry that they should institute an enquiry into that incident which cost the life of an innocent student of tender age of 15 or 16 years. As you know, Sir, Government did nothing beyond publishing certain mutually contradictory communiques. So, I demand in the name of justice an enquiry into the incident.

MR. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, with regard to what Mr. Dhar has just placed before the House, I should say he is not quite correct in all the statements of that day. Of course, he said he was present on the spot. I was at Mymensingh, though not on the spot, and I have full information of facts for the information of the House. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: I challenge you to prove them.) Please have patience, do not get nervous. Try to face facts and realities. Instead of interrupting me, you are at liberty to correct me if I am wrong.

On that day—on the 22nd—from 11 o'clock all the Communist boys, Communist workers and Congress workers, all started big processions. My friend said just a minute ago that they were moving through the streets peacefully, but that is not quite correct. They went up to the Court precincts, some of them entered into the chamber of the Additional District Magistrate, Mr. Mazumdar. Not only that. He was pushed by some of the boys. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: No, no, never.) That was within the Treasury Building. Later on, the District Magistrate, Mr. Bastin, was sitting at the other end of the building. He came out of his chamber to speak to some of the leaders of that procession. Then he was talking and talking with them for two and a half hours. Standing on the street near the Treasury Building, he discussed with them for two and a half hours, but nothing did come out of it. The result was that he was surrounded, the Police Superintendent who came there was also surrounded in such a way by about 300 people strong. Then the District Magistrate took out a cigarette from his pocket and he was trying to smoke. Some people told him "Put your cigarette into your pocket". This is the sort of language they used. Some of them, I am told, went to the length of pushing him. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: All this is untrue.) You may say untrue, but these are hard facts. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: You are contradicting your own friend Mr. Pathan.) Why do you get nervous? (Uproar.) Please hear. Be patient.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know why honourable members on the opposite side do not desire to hear what the other version of the occurrence is.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Then the District Magistrate offered the leader to release all arrested persons on bail. He said: "I am ready to release them on bail. You can take anyone out." But they wanted unconditional release then and there. They said: "You must pass the order for release here and now." That was not possible. The District Magistrate said: "Let me go to my room. Let me consult with other officers." But they did not want to give him any time. I submit, Sir, no officer either in a Congress or a Muslim League Government—nobody can tolerate such things. The police had to extricate the District Magistrate and others and the Superintendent of Police had to pull them out. The result was that the situation being grave the District Magistrate had to ask for police help. The police helped them out and after that the rioters immediately started pelting brickbats at the police and the District Magistrate. No less than 400 bricks were thrown against the police and the District Magistrate. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: An independent enquiry will prove it.)

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am amazed at the attitude taken by the Opposition in reference to a speech which they did not like. I can only suggest that if they really desire to get at the truth then all parties must have a chance of saying what they wish to state. When honourable members on the other side were speaking, not a single member from this side intervened or interrupted, although there were many of us who felt that the picture was overdrawn and was not in accordance with facts. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Not at all overdrawn.) It is a question of one version against another; and the honourable members on the other side have given a version which is not in accordance with the version which was placed in my hands and which I have already communicated to this House. It is extremely unfortunate that students were utilized for such political purposes. The students are our children and we have to look after their interests and not to utilize them as political pawns. I wish honourable members opposite would sometimes consider the horrible game which they are playing with the lives of these young men, in advancing them before tear gas, and guns and in keeping themselves in the background and disappearing when their presence is necessary. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: So shooting is justified!) Sir, it is clear that the students were made— and along with students there were members of the public—to invade the *ejlas* of the Additional District Magistrate where they pushed him out. When certain persons were arrested they behaved in a most outrageous manner and thereafter they started throwing brickbats at the treasury building. We have heard of all kinds of charges against the police, but it is for the first time in our lives that we hear that the police threw brickbats. They have tear gas, they have guns, they have bullets, but we never knew that the police were armed with brickbats. As a matter of fact, it was these young men who threw the brickbats and I wonder if honourable members would go so far as to say that it was ultimately the police who invaded Government building and burnt records. I am sorry, Sir, that a student met his death, but I think that the honourable members opposite, and particularly that member who shouted such a good deal and who is admitting the fact that he was present there and who now desires to disown responsibility should see to it that incidents like this do not recur and that our young men are not utilized in this way. (Uproar.)

Sir, Mr. Adhikary has referred to another incident, namely, the Susang incident, and he has agreed with the analysis of an honourable member that Government was wrong in allowing agitators to get along with aboriginals and in permitting the agitators to have a clear field, so that

they could incite the aboriginals to disorderliness and violence. It is only at a late stage that one can find out to what extent the agitators have succeeded in misleading people. If we had attempted to stop these agitators in the beginning, there would have been a shout raised from that quarter all over the press that we are curbing civil liberties and that we are not allowing persons to carry on legitimate propaganda in the interests of agriculturists. We know that these persons who go to the agriculturists and carry on agitation amongst them are not doing so in the interests of the agriculturists but for some ulterior motive and ultimately their motive is made apparent in public when these unfortunate persons who are misled by them resort to violence and ultimately have to come up against the forces of law and order. I am glad in a way that the fact that this agitation can lead to most unseemly incidents has been brought home to the Opposition and, as I stated in an earlier speech, I hope that the Opposition will support Government in its measures to stop this agitation. If continued it is bound to lead to grave lawlessness and disorderliness of which the effects can hardly be foreseen.

Sir, I submit that, so far as local officials were concerned, they had no alternative but to resort to the repressive action that they had to take. Nobody desires to do so. Nobody desires to take harsh action. Least of all the local officials, because they know that not only is the public watching them, not only is the legislature watching them, but also there is a Ministry—condemn it as much as you like but there is a Ministry—that is watching them and calling them to task and taking reports from them, and if the Ministry find that the action taken by them is unjustified they will take them to task. Not in one or two cases but in several instances this Ministry has taken such action. But when they are justified we must support the officials. I can state this categorically that we must support those officials who are acting fairly and justly. It would be wrong to let them down; it would be wrong to condemn them because if you do so that would demoralise them utterly so that where action may be necessary they will be unable to take the necessary steps. I think, Sir, that there can be no doubt about it as the facts have been placed before the House that the officials acted with commendable restraint and Government supports the action taken by them.

The motion of Mr. Amulya Chandra Adhikari that the demand of Rs. 24,04,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that a sum of Rs. 24,04,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 36,04,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Re. 1 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Re. 1 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,46,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

54—Famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL FAZAL MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,93,31,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

"57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme".

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,60,10,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances bearing interest.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 95,38,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-30 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 203 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Starred question No. 140 was called out but the Hon'ble Minister being absent no answer was forthcoming.)

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: It is extremely unfortunate that the Hon'ble Minister is not present here.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, it may be held over for some time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Next question.

Proposal for establishment of Agricultural Bank.

***141. Mr. MD. ISRAIL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation Department be pleased to state whether an expert was appointed by Government for submitting a scheme for the establishment of an Agricultural Bank on the model of Agricultural Banks established in Egypt?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any report has been submitted by the said expert and, if so, what action, if any, Government has taken on it?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মানবীর সহায়তাপর অনুগ্রহ কবে বনবেন বি Egypte Agricultural Bankগুলি যেভাবে পরিচালিত হই আবারের দেশের Agricultural Bankগুলি সেই নীতিতে স্থাপন করিতে এবং পরিচালিত করিতে তিনি ইচ্ছুক কি না ?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the model of Agricultural Bank in Egypt?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: That is a scheme to benefit the agriculturists only. Government does not contemplate to start banks on those lines because it will not be beneficial to the agriculturists here.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the obstacles in the way of establishing such banks?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: Conditions prevailing in Egypt are not the same here in Bengal.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is contemplating to have banks according to any other model—British, German, Russian and so on and so forth?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: The honourable member's suggestions will be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 140.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: This question was already once answered before the House, but because my friend over there asked this question in a different form the answer has been given.

Nationalisation of Tramways Company and Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

***140. Mr. MD. ISRAIL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether he proposes to nationalise the Tram Company and the Electric Supply Corporation?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date on which and the terms under which he proposes to acquire these two concerns?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the public are very anxious for the speedy nationalisation of these concerns?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (a) Yes.

(b) As regards Tramways, a scheme for the formation of a Calcutta Passenger Transport Board to take over all passenger transport service including the Tramways has been worked out. The scheme involves legislation, proposals for which are under consideration.

As regards the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, it has been decided that the option of purchase of the Calcutta and District consolidated Electric Licence, 1946, shall be exercised on 1st January, 1950, and that the necessary financial implications arising therefrom be examined. The purchase price payable upon the exercise of the option of purchase on 1st January, 1950, shall be in accordance with section 7(1) of Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the percentage addition being 20 (except as provided below), together with a sum equivalent to one year's gross revenue (calculated as the average of the three years 1947-49) received by the licensees for supply of energy and rent of meters and other apparatus on consumers' premises in the area previously included in the following licences:—

The Bally Uttarpara Electric Licence, 1920 (as amended in 1928).

The Howrah Electric Licence, 1926 (as amended in 1932).

The Serampore Electric Licence, 1928.

The Lillooah Electric Licence, 1930.

The Rishra-Konnagar and Kotrung Electric Licence, 1931.

The Baidyabati, Champdany and Bhadreswar Electric Licence, 1933.

The Panihati, Khardah and Titagarh Electric Licence, 1933.

The Bhatpara, Naopara, Garulia and North Barrackpore Electric Licence, 1934.

The Budge Budge and Baugia Electric Licence, 1935:

Provided that the percentage addition in respect of any lands, buildings, works, materials and plant brought into use after the 1st day of January, 1947, shall be 15 only.

(c) Yes.

Mr. MIIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when such a Bill for the nationalisation of Passenger Transport Services is expected to be brought before the House?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The relevant department is considering it—the Chief Minister's Department.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it would be correct to assume from his answer (b) that a scheme for taking over all passenger transport services has been worked out and finally approved by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Well, the Chief Minister's Department is working out, and the moment it is finalised, it will be placed before the House.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With reference to answer (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the anti-social attitude of the Tramway Company in not meeting the demands of the tramway workers, he proposes to expedite the question of nationalisation of the Tramway Company?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I do not propose to answer whether it is anti-social or pro-social, but there is a strike going on and Government has ordered adjudication. The Tramway Company have accepted —

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the answer. Mr. Basu only wants to know whether Government is prepared to expedite the nationalisation, which is the main part of his question. You are only commenting on the expression "anti-social".

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government is prepared to nationalise as quickly as possible.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to give an idea of the constitution of the Calcutta Passenger Transport Board?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether answer (b) does or does not mean that the scheme has been approved or is still in the process of examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I think the answer given is absolutely clear.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the scheme for taking over all passenger traffic services has been approved by Government----

Mr. SPEAKER: The question only refers to Tramways Company and Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: No. All passenger transport services—as in answer (b). My question is whether Government have finally approved the scheme for taking over all passenger traffic services.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Will you carefully read the answer?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I have very carefully read it.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Then I do not think it is necessary to answer the question; it is already there. A scheme has been worked out; it involves legislation proposals for which are under consideration.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to answer (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when does he propose to bring proposals for legislation before the House?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already answered.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether pending the final decision of Government they are considering the desirability of increasing the number of bus drivers and licensees of buses who are actually the sons of the soil?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The scheme is under consideration.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether all that remains to be done with reference to (b) is to draw up a legislation only?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: When we go into legislation the thing will be finalised, and in that sense you can understand that the whole thing has not been finished.

Introduction of Bengal Markets Regulation Bill.

***142. Mr. MD. ISRAIL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether he proposes to introduce the Bengal Markets Regulation Bill in the present session of the Assembly and get it passed?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the same?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Bill was passed in the Assembly as late as in 1941?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no steps have been taken for the passage of the Bill up till now?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (a) and (b) It is hoped that a Bill will be ready for introduction during the current session, and to that end steps are being taken to expedite the necessary preliminaries.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Bill was referred by the Bengal Legislative Council to a Select Committee from which it emerged with 5 notes of dissent. After fuller consideration several changes of fundamental importance were introduced but as these involved intricate legal points, prolonged consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown had to take place. This was not completed by the time the last Ministry went out of office. During the Section 93 Administration it was decided to leave this rather controversial measure to the decision of a responsible Ministry. Since the present Ministry came into office the Bill has been further amended and an almost entirely new Bill is being drafted.

Grievances of passengers at Narayanganj and Munshiganj steamer stations.

***143. Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJI:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Transport) Department aware that at Narayanganj and Munshiganj steamer stations the passengers are inconvenienced—

(i) in the purchase of tickets in view of the fact that the booking clerks begin to issue tickets just at the sight of steamers; and

(ii) on account of—

(1) overcrowding,

(2) insanitary and insufficient arrangements of latrines,

(3) insufficient arrangement of drinking water,

(4) insufficient and insanitary arrangement for supply of food, and

(5) no separate arrangements of latrines for inter-class passengers?

(b) If the answers to clause (a) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the steamer companies for removing the grievances immediately?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Dacca-Manikganj, Goalundo-Chandpur and Goalundo-Narayanganj Mail steamers (up and down) often carry almost double the number of passengers they have licence for?

(d) If the answer to clause (c) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of asking the steamer companies for running duplicate steamer services?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy).

(a)(i) At Narayanganj tickets are issued to passengers travelling by Pudda services, Dhallessary and Lakhya services, two hours before the departure time of the steamers and in the case of local ferry steamers plying from Narayanganj tickets are available half an hour before departure time. At Munshiganj and other intermediate stations tickets are issued when steamers are first sighted to avoid the inconvenience caused to passengers if they have to claim refunds in the event of the non-arrival of the steamers, due to grounding, fog or engine trouble.

(ii) (1) Due to a considerable increase in passenger traffic over pre-war days steamers are carrying numbers up to the capacities permitted by the certificates of Survey. Enquiries made show that numbers in excess of the capacities allowed by the certificates are not carried.

(2) There are two receiving flats, one at Narayanganj and the other at Munshiganj, and each has two latrines and a sweeper. The Ghat Sub-Agent of the Joint Steamer Company is responsible for the sweeper carrying out his duties in a satisfactory manner.

(3) The Joint Steamer Companies are examining the possibilities of providing drinking water facilities at Narayanganj and Munshiganj.

(4) Messing arrangements are provided on the Pudda Service steamers and vendors travel by the steamers which maintain the local services. There is no arrangement for sale of sweetmeats by the Joint Steamer Companies but sweetmeats may be obtained from the railway station at Narayanganj and from shops on the District Board Road at Munshiganj.

(5) The attention of the Steamer Companies has been drawn to the necessity of increasing the number of latrines.

(b) The Steamer Companies have been asked to take steps for the removal of the legitimate grievances of the passengers.

(c) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the reply to question No. (a) (ii) above.

(d) Government consider that increased facilities for passengers are required but no improvements are possible until the steamers that were requisitioned by the Military are returned to the company. The company has, however, inaugurated a duplicate Chandpur Express Service to cope with the additional passengers diverted from the Serajganj-Jagannathganj route due to its temporary closure.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: অভিজিত প্রশ্ন স্যার, বানবীর বর্ষা মাহার অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে বেলা ১২ টার সময় একই সময়ে কলিকাতা বেল, নারায়ণগড় বেল ও বনেন্দবী ট্রামার গাড়ি ছাড়ে, তার কমে ticket কাটবার windowতে অভ্যস্ত ভীড় হয় ও ট্রামার প্যাসেঞ্জারদের অসুবিধা বেশী হয় ?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: My information is that it is not always that the three steamers leave at the same time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Next question.

(Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta rose to put a question.)

Mr. SPEAKER: With regard to this question I would point out that the Provincial Government has no control over Steamer Companies and Railways. It is only by courtesy that I admitted this question, so that necessary information can be supplied to the members of the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: They may not have control over the Railways, but over the Steamer Companies they should have control, so that they may not carry more passengers than could be accommodated.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly; that is mentioned in the licence.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of congestion in steamers I suggest that the steamer services should be nationalised immediately, because passengers cannot put up with existing inconveniences.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Everything will be nationalised.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With regard to answer (a)(ii)(I), namely, "enquiries made show that numbers in excess of the capacities allowed by the certificates are not carried", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the enquiries were made?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As far as my information goes, the District Magistrate of Dacca has enquired into the matter along with the Commandant of the Marine Department, Calcutta.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I want to know when the enquiry was made.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether non-arrival of steamers is a normal affair?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Non-arrival of steamers is due to fog or grounding. If the steamer is grounded then naturally the steamer does not arrive. It is not normal.

Number of police-stations in Calcutta and the strength of Scheduled Caste Officers in charge thereof.

*144. **Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state the number of

police-stations in Calcutta proper and number of Caste Hindu, Scheduled Caste, Muslim and other community officers in charge of those police-stations who were on active duty on the 15th and 16th August, 1946?

(b) If the number of Scheduled Caste Officers in charge of the Calcutta police-stations were not according to the communal ratio will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy):

(a) Twenty-seven police-stations, including one independent outpost, and 14 Muslim, 12 Hindu and one Anglo-Indian officers in charge of them.

(b) There is no Scheduled Caste Officer in charge of any of these police-stations. Communal Ratio Rules do not operate in the selection of officers-in-charge. Selection is always made from the best available officers irrespective of community.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of scheduled caste Sub-Inspectors in the Calcutta Police?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said that there is none at the present moment.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the rank of officers who are usually in charge of police-stations?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: Usually Sub-Inspectors.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether Sub-Inspectors are directly recruited?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: In view of the answer just given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether no Scheduled Caste officers are in charge of police-stations?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As I have said, at the present moment there is no Scheduled Caste officer.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Communal Ratio Rules do not operate in the selection of officers-in-charge?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As far as I know, we are trying to operate it.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Scheduled Caste candidates are directly appointed to Sub-Inspector's posts?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: As far as the Calcutta Police is concerned, at the present moment our information is that there is no Scheduled Caste police officer.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: With reference to answer (a), what does he mean by "independent outpost"—independent of British Administration or independent of the Police Commissioner?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Sir, my question has not been properly answered. I wanted to know whether Scheduled Castes candidates are directly appointed as Sub-Inspectors?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Some of them are directly appointed and some are promoted from Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Scheduled Castes Candidates are placed in charge of a thana?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Anglo-Indian officer is in charge of the independent outpost?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the proportion of the population of the different communities in Calcutta?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the communal ratio has been maintained so far as the appointment of an officer-in-charge of a thana is concerned?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Communal ratio is not maintained in the case of promotions.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Hindus and Muslims are all eligible to be put in charge of an independent outpost?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, if they are found fit.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the rank of the officers-in-charge of thanas, is Inspector or Sub-Inspector?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Inspector as well as Sub-Inspector.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is an officer-in-charge who has been directly appointed?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the case of officers directly appointed in charge of police-stations the Communal Ratio Rules have been observed?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Scheduled Caste officer was appointed in charge of any thana?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said that. If there is none, what can I do?

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Sub-Inspectors have been appointed since 1946?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the total strength of Scheduled Castes Sub-Inspectors in the Calcutta Police force?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Unfortunately, nil.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Findings of the enquiry into pay and prospects of inferior Government servants.

53. Mr. FAKIR ABDUL MANNAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Establishment) Department be pleased to state if any Special Officer was appointed to enquire into the pay and prospects of the inferior employees in the year 1939?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether he is considering the desirability of publishing the report thereof; and

(ii) what is the decision of the Government in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) Yes.

(b) The Report was not published. Government are now considering the question of revision of pay of all classes of Government servants including inferior servants and the findings of the Special Officer are being taken into account in that connection.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the report was not published?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The report was submitted to Government in the year 1939 and then it was not possible at that time to publish the report and after that Government appointed an officer to go into the question and that report is pending with Government.

Enforcement of Bengal Waterways Act.

54. Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Transport) Department be pleased to state whether action has been taken of the Bengal Waterways Act?

(b) If the answer be in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) and (b) The question of bringing the Bengal Waterways Act into force was considered by Government in August last when it was decided that there should be a *de novo* examination of the whole matter in the light of present and prospective conditions unfettered by the scheme of the Act itself. This examination has since been completed and the departmental recommendations are under my consideration.

Tenders for Damodar Left Embankment work.

55. Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(a) separately the total number of tenders received for Damodar Left Embankment work during the years 1943-44 and 1944-45;

(b) separately the total number of contractors who were given works during the years 1943-44 and 1944-45;

(c) separately the total number of Muslim contractors who were favoured with the works for the years 1943-44 and 1944-45 in the aforesaid works;

- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government for the completion of the Damodar Left Embankment work and the total amount of works distributed to the Muslim contractors;
- (e) total amount spent after work done by manual labour at the Damodar Left Embankment work and the total amount spent after the work done by lorries in Damodar Left Embankment work;
- (f) whether there was any open tender for lorry work in the Damodar Left Embankment work;
- (g) separately total number of Overseers, Subdivisional Officers, Assistant Engineers, Executive Engineers engaged in the Damodar Left Embankment work and also total number of Clerks, Accountants and Estimators; and
- (h) separately the total number of Muslim Overseers, Subdivisional Officers, Assistant Engineers, Executive Engineers, Accountants, Estimators, Clerks, etc.?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath Mukherjee): (a) Two hundred and forty in 1943-44 and 224 in 1944-45.

(b) Forty-nine in 1943-44 and 54 in 1944-45.

(c) Eighteen in 1943-44 and 15 in 1944-45.

(d) (i) the work is still in progress; expenditure to end of 1944-45 is Rs.47,41,910.

(ii) The tenders being on piece work tender form where amount of work done depends on the capability and labour strength of the contractors, the amount of work distributed to a contractor cannot be stated. The total amount paid to Muslim contractors was however Rs.10,84,306.

(e) There being no difference between work done by manual labour and work done by lorries and no difference in rates for the carriage of earth by manual labour or by any other means, the expenditures were not separately recorded.

(f) No.

(g) (i) Executive Engineer—1 in addition to normal works of the Division.

(ii) Special Officer (of the rank of Executive Engineer)—1 up to 18th June, 1945, only solely for this work.

(iii) Subdivisional Officers—3 in addition to normal works of 3 subdivisions.

(iv) Overseers—10 in addition to normal works of 3 subdivisions.

(v) Assistant Engineer—1 included in (iii) above.

(vi) Clerks (Accounts and Correspondence and Senior Accounts Clerks, Typists, Tracer and Subdivisional Clerks)—10.

(vii) Accountant (additional)—1.

(viii) Estimator—1.

(h) (i) Executive Engineer—Nil.

(ii) Special Officer—Nil.

(iii) Subdivisional Officer—1.

(iv) Overseer—1 up to 7th November, 1944.

(v) Assistant Engineer—1.

(vi) Clerks, etc.—4.

(vii) Accountant (additional)—1.

(viii) Estimator—1.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the procedure that was adopted in the matter of calling of tenders and of selecting the contractors?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: A Special Committee was appointed consisting of the then Minister in charge of Communications and Works, the Minister in charge of Labour and Industries, the Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer, and they were entrusted with the task of selecting the contractors.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if sealed tenders were called?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I think no tenders were called because of the emergency.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the work that has been taken in this connection has been done on the recommendation of the Committee just named, and if so, does this work conflict with the recommendation of the Committee which was appointed under the presidency of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I am afraid, the honourable member is making a mistake. The Committee that was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan was long after this Committee was appointed.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, my question does not concern the time. My question is, whether the work that has been completed under the scheme is in any way in conflict with the recommendation of the previous Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how these contractors were picked up?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already said, the Special Committee was entrusted with the task of selecting contractors.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Was not the communal ratio principle followed?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I think it was as far as possible.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that allegations were made on the floor of the House in the last Assembly that there was great nepotism in the selection of contractors, and if so, has he made any enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: These matters were long disposed of by the previous Ministry.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to answer (d)(i), namely, "the work is still in progress" and say whether the work has been disposed of or is in progress? Which of them is true?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The major portion of the work has been done.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the construction work is still in progress and if so, whether he does not feel the necessity of enquiring into the allegations made by the Opposition during the last session of the Assembly?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated these works were begun long ago and have been long disposed of, although the work of preparing and constructing the embankment is still going on.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made by him into the allegations which were made on the floor of this House?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: As I have already stated, these allegations were made about three years ago, and these allegations were enquired into by the then Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the results of the enquiry which was made by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I ask for notice.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: With reference to answer (c) wherein the Hon'ble Minister has stated that there were 18 Muslim contractors in 1943-44 and 15 in 1944-45, will he be pleased to state why no Scheduled Castes contractors have been given any chance?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I cannot say offhand whether there were any Scheduled Castes contractors or not.

Age-limit in public service.

56. Mr. ALI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department be pleased to state

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is certain age-limit in the public service and after the expiry of that age-limit officers are allowed to go on pension;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a large number of retired officers have been appointed in the keyposts in different departments;
- (c) if so, what are their numbers and in what posts; and
- (d) when they are going to be released?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) Yes.

(b) On account of shortage of experienced officers, some retired officers (both gazetted and non-gazetted) have been re-employed in several departments.

(c) It is not possible to give the number without knowing which posts are meant by the term "keyposts".

(d) It is not possible to mention the date. Their discharge will depend on the exigency of public service.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that when senior-most officers retire the next batch of senior officers are forth-coming, why do the Government say that there is a shortage of experienced officers? Do the Government mean to say that the next batch of senior officers who are coming have not acquired any experience whatsoever during their long term of service?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: May I point out that these officers were appointed when there was a great demand for experienced officers, and by the time

they attain the age of 50 if their services are not required, they are discharged and the next batch of officers with experience who are competent to take their places are being put in.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the practice of appointing retired officers still continues?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he feels that the policy that has been pursued by the Government is leading to unemployment and disaffection in the country?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Of course, we feel it. For this reason, retired officers' extension is not being allowed by Government in future.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if all these retired officers have been reappointed in the Civil Supplies Department?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as my information goes, some of the officers were reappointed during the time of section 93 administration and their services terminated on 20th February, 1947, and the Government, I do not think, has reappointed any of these officers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The services of how many such officers were terminated, as just stated by the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are rates of pay allowed to these officers when they are reappointed—the same scale of pay as at the time of retirement or any new scale?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: They are appointed on the same scale as they used to get at the time of their retirement—the same pay, pension being included.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the department which absorbs these retired officers most?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I require notice. Most of these officers were employed in the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many such retired officers were reappointed in the Enforcement Department?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: It is very difficult for me to give the information now. I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many discharged and dismissed officers have been absorbed in the Civil Supplies Department?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I do not think any.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: With reference to reply (d), if the date of discharge is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister to mention, will he be in a position to give us any idea if he thinks there is a possibility of replacement of these officers in the near future?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: There is every possibility of these officers being replaced.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any other machinery has been thought out for securing those officers who are to replace these officers?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I think the Public Service Commission is the only means at the disposal of the Government to consult as far as replacement is concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: Next.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I stood up before you called out the next question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it very important?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: It requires some elucidation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will allow you this time, but I would point out that supplementary questions are not meant for cross-examination. However, I allow you this time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how he can reconcile the policy that is behind fixing the age-limit with the reappointment of officers who have attained this age-limit?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Government officers were reappointed after they attained their retirement age of 55 up to the age of 60.

Government action on resolutions passed at Process Servers' Conference.

57. Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether Government have received a copy of the proceedings of the last annual session of the Process Servers' Conference held at Rangpur on the 21st April, 1946?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any action has been taken on the resolutions passed at the conference?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan Roy): (a) Yes.

(b) The resolutions are under consideration of Government.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: With reference to question (b) the Hon'ble Minister has replied that the resolutions are under consideration of Government. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when those resolutions will be given effect to after consideration by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: As early as possible.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the recommendations of that conference and what are the main resolutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: There are about 10 resolutions about their pay and such other things.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House by what possible time the consideration of the resolutions will be finished?

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: I have already answered "as early as possible", but I cannot say the exact time.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: With reference to my supplementary question the Hon'ble Minister has replied that the consideration by the Government will be given effect to as early as possible, but may I know from the Hon'ble Minister the time-limit—

Mr. SPEAKER: No, that was covered by the last supplementary question. Please resume your seat.

Comilla-Chauddagram Road.

58. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings (Communications) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that there is a provincial highway from Comilla to Chauddagram and beyond; and

(ii) that that road is the main thoroughfare for that part of the district?

(b) In view of the importance of the road do the Government consider the desirability of metalling the road?

MINISTER in charge of the WORKS and BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarakanath Barori): (a) and (b) The road belongs to the District Board. It has been included in the Road Development Programme for improvement as a part of the Provincial Highway from Comilla to Chittagong.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the contemplated improvement, that is the work for the contemplated improvement, is likely to begin?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: 1947-48.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any other such highway in the Tippera district?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, that is not covered by this question.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is Government contemplating to acquire fresh lands for this road?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: That question does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: On a point of order. Is it in order for the Hon'ble Minister to reply to a question that that question is not in order?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I drew the attention of the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister drew the attention of the Chair that it was not admissible.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: On a point of order. I wanted to know whether Government is contemplating to acquire fresh lands and his reply:—

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you putting a supplementary question?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: He said I was not in order. My question was whether Government is contemplating to acquire fresh lands for this road, viz., Comilla-Chauddagram Road.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is perfectly in order.

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I said "it does not arise out of this question".

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been answered in the way in which the Hon'ble Minister thought fit.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the management of this district board road has been transferred to the Communications and Works Department?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Not yet.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: When is it likely to be transferred?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: At an early date.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please give an approximate date?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: No, I cannot tell you offhand.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain how he can reconcile the apparently contradictory statements that it has been included in the Road Development Programme as a provincial highway and then say again that it has not yet been transferred?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no irreconcilability. It has been included in the Provincial Road Development Scheme pending the formal transfer of the road by the District Board to the provincial authorities. It is quite clear.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (b), in what particulars improvement is sought to be effected?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The road will be metalled.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there will be earthwork?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: If it is found necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar I do not think it is a proper question whether earthwork will be undertaken, how much earth, at what rate, and all that.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of privilege, Sir. I find in the booklet containing notices of cut motions that a large number of cut motions have been tabled by members opposite. I submit, Sir, that the party supporting Government took the responsibility for the action of their Government and the budget as presented has received the full consideration on their part. It is the exclusive privilege of the Opposition to go into the budgetary provisions, and by way of cut motions, to criticise and discuss various matters that may arise in the judgment of the Opposition. I therefore submit that it is not a healthy precedent to set to allow members of the Government side to take time for the purpose of tabling cut motions for the mere intention of withdrawing them after a little exhibition of speeches and of their progressivism. I submit, Sir, that as it happened earlier, during the period of your illustrious predecessor, Mr. Azizul Haque, as far as I remember, Government members were not given that facility to move cut motions in this way. I therefore submit, Sir, that these cut motions should not be allowed unless any member on the Government side would wish, by way of expressing a definite opinion or disapproval of anything, to move a cut motion and to put it to vote. Otherwise it is a meaningless waste of time to table a cut motion without any seriousness behind it and it is an infringement of the precious privilege of the Opposition. I therefore submit, Sir, that you will be pleased to give your guidance in this matter and help to see that this right of the Opposition is respected and that they are not allowed to move frivolous cut motions which are not meant seriously to be pressed. I also ask, Sir, that you will be pleased not to allow members on the Government side to speak and waste time (cries of "why," "why" from Government benches). Hon'ble Ministers get an

opportunity to oppose these cut motions and take a long enough time to give their replies. The longer period allotted to the Hon'ble Ministers for making their replies, is intended for this very purpose that Ministers may take adequate time to answer all the points that may be raised. It is the privilege of the Opposition to move cut motions and criticise the budget. It is not necessary for Government supporters to take any time for this purpose unless they think that Ministers are worthless and incompetent; and if they think so, let them change their Ministers and place those who they think will do better justice to their party politics. It is a very important thing. I seek your guidance, Sir, and a definite ruling on this matter.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar wants to save time and in so doing he has wasted our most precious time. I think during past years the convention in this House has been that members supporting Government also give notice of cut motions but they generally do not press it; and after getting assurances from the Hon'ble Ministers they used to withdraw these motions. This is an established convention. I think it will be too late in the day for Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar to raise this question now. Criticism of Government action, giving advice to Government, and making helpful criticism, are not the monopoly of the Opposition. They always make a capital of the situation and they want that nothing progressive should fall from the lips of the members on this side of the House. I do not think why there should be a change in the convention and I will ask you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to stick to this convention.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say a few words in reply to what has been said by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar. Sir, it is not true that your illustrious predecessor—Mr. Azizul Haque—ruled that members supporting Government cannot move any cut motion. We tabled cut motions and we discussed them on the floor of the House; after assurances were held out the cut motion was allowed to be withdrawn with the leave of the House. This was the practice during Mr. Azizul Haque's time. Subsequently Government itself sometimes thought fit that members of Government party may not move cut motions; but the members have got the right to do so under the rules, under the Act, under everything, and if you will, Sir, look into the cut motions of the previous session, you will find invariably that cut motions tabled by members of Government party are there and in sufficient numbers. They have also been allowed to be moved, because the Government party members are not here only to sit tight and support Government, they are here to put forward helpful and constructive suggestions as well. And if they are satisfied that Government is doing their duty according to programme and policy laid down by the Party, then and then alone they may withdraw the cut motions. If the contention of my friends opposite is correct then probably the rules would have been so framed or so amended during the time of Mr. Azizul Haque, but they did not raise this question in the Rules Committee. The rules as they stand at present do not debar a member of the Government party from moving any cut motion. Friends who are now sitting opposite have sometimes supported Government and they have also moved cut motions (cries of "no," "no"); I can give a number of instances. I do not want to be interrupted in this way. If they will consult the list of cut motions in those sessions, they will find that it is an established convention that Government supporters are never debarred from moving cut motions. They are also allowed to give vent to their grievances which they may have so far as the budget is concerned. Sir, everybody knows that so far as the budget itself is concerned, it is not possible for Government to place before its party members all the details of it; it is something secret which cannot be placed before the party members; they come to know of it only when it is published. So the members of the party have got every right to discuss on the floor of the House the details of it by moving cut motions. Members supporting

Government while speaking, generally give helpful suggestions, and if satisfied by the assurance given by the Minister concerned, they may withdraw the cut motion with the leave of the House. That is the practice and the convention, and there is no rule which debars Government from doing that. I think that what has been said by my friend is not reasonable.

(Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmed rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think any more advice is necessary in this matter. It is a very simple point and I do not require any more advice.

The constitution and the rules framed thereunder confer rights and privileges on members equally belonging to all sides of this House. It does not make any difference between Opposition and the Government side (cries of "hear," "hear" from Government benches). Neither it makes any difference between the members belonging to a party and the members sitting independently. So the rights and privileges which have been conferred by these rules and the Act cannot be taken away by the Chair. Every member is entitled to move a cut motion if he likes and so exercise his rights and privileges as any other member of the House;—whether it is proper on the part of a certain member belonging to a certain party is quite a different matter, but so far as the Chair is concerned, the Chair cannot stop the members exercising their fundamental and primary rights in this House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Can he move a cut motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: If he gives notice of a cut motion, he is entitled to move it or not to move it. He may not move it but he is entitled to discuss the question and speak generally. He may move it and then after hearing the reply of the Hon'ble Minister may withdraw it. It is up to him to decide what he will do in regard to a certain motion standing in his name.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, you have not been pleased to answer one point that I have raised. I need not discuss about the theoretical rules that exist; but apart from the rules in the procedure there is the question of convention. Unless there is accommodation by convention no rules become workable.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you speak of convention, then I may say that the contention goes against the contention.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What I have suggested is the question of convention which I ask you to please adopt and guide the House accordingly. It is not merely the question of convention but it is also a question of propriety.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the question of propriety is concerned, that is a different matter. The Chair does not think that it can stop the fundamental rights of members.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

7—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 89,02,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue".

Mr. JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to reclaim the lands devastated by floods, especially in the district of Burdwan.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA BOY : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, প্রুকের যাদবের প'জা মহাশয় সে হাঁটাই প্রত্যহ উপস্থিত করেছেন তার সর্ধ'নে আমি কিছু বলতে চাই। হাঁটাই প্রত্যহটি Land Revenue বিভাগের দাবীর উপর আলোচ্য। সে সময়ে মাননীয় মহী বহোদয়কে বসোনিবেশ করতে সন্থিষের অনুমোদন করছি, যদি প্রত্যহিত অভিজ্ঞাণগুলির আত প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা না করেন তবে তাঁর Land revenue বিভাগের দাবি পরিবর্তন করে সর্ধ তাকে Sand revenue বলতে হবে। পশ্চিম বাংলায়, বিশেষ করে বর্ধমান বিভাগে হাওড়া, হুগলী, বেদীনীপুর, বর্ধমান, বীরভূম, বাঁকুড়া জেলা ও ছোটনাগপুর জেলার পাছাতের উ'চু বারগা থেকে জমর, গাঘোষর, শ্রব, রূপনারায়ণ, কুশী, শিলাই প্রভৃতি নদীর পাখা প্রশাখা বৃহৎ কুল ভেঙ্গে প্রবল ধারায় বাসুর চাপে কি পরিমাণে আবাদী জমিকে পতিত করেছে, কত উর্বর শ্যাবল অঞ্চলকে ধ্বংস করতে পরিণত করেছে। Writers Buildingsএর Revenue বিভাগের তথ্যগুলির সময়ে ওরাকিহাল থাকলে মহী মহাশয়ের সূঁচ কৃষ্টিয়ে দৃষ্ট আকর্ষণ করতে হোত না। নদীগুলির নিয়ন্ত্রণ অভাবে বারবার প্রবল ব্যায়র জমিগুলির উত্তরোত্তর বে কতি ছেছে তার পরিমাণের হারাহারি দেখাবার সর্ধ হবে না। আমি ২০-২৫ বার ঐ সর্ধ কতিগ্রুত অকল পরিমরণ করেছে ও সেখানকার লায়িগল ও অভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিদের সর্ধে এই কতিগ্রুত জমির পরিমাণ সময়ে আলোচনা করেছি। এই আলোচনা হতে আমি নিঃসন্দেহে বলতে পারি যে, এই ৬টি জেলার বাসুর চাপে পতিত জমির পরিমাণ খুব কম করে হলেও ১০ হাজার একর বা ১০ হাজার বিঘা। কোন্ অকলে কি পরিমাণ জমির কতি হয়েছে তা সামান্য সময়ের মধ্যে বড়টুকু আভাস দেওয়া সম্ভব বলছি। দাখোলদের প্রুচও বেগ বাঁকুড়া ও বর্ধমান জেলার ছোটনাগপুরের পার্শ্বভা অকল থেকে দ্রুত সর্ধল জুড়িতে নাযবার সূঁচ তার পতি পথে ৫০ মাইলের মধ্যে কতিগ্রুত জমির পরিমাণ সর্ধচেষ্টে বেশী। এই অকলে কতিগ্রুত জমির পরিমাণ খুব কম হলেও ৫ হাজার একরের কম হবে না। অজর বীরভূম বর্ধমানের বে অকলের জমির কতি করেছে তার পরিমাণও ২ হাজার একরের কম যখন। এই প্রকার বেদীনীপুরের উপর দিয়ে দারকেশুর (পরে বা রূপ-নারায়ণ হয়েছে), কুশী ও শিলাই, বাঁকুড়া জেলার সর্ধ বহুকুয়া, বিকুপুর বহুকুয়া ও বেদীনীপুর জেলার ঘটাল ও সর্ধ বহুকুয়া ও তনপুক বহুকুয়ার বে কতি করেছে তার পরিমাণ ৫ হাজার বিঘার চেয়ে কম নয়। এই প্রকারে প্রার ১০ হাজার বিঘা জমি পতিত হয়ে পড়ে হয়েছে। সেগুলির পুনরুদ্ধার ব্যবস্থা বা চাষের উন্নতির কোন চেষ্টা করা না হলে সত্যি Land Revenue বিভাগ Sand revenue বিভাগে ন্যাতকিত হওয়া উচিত বলে আমি মনে করি। বাংলা দেশে ধান্যের অভাব, চাষের জমির অভাব, অথচ দাখোলদের উপত্যকার কত জমি অনুর্বর ও পতিত হয়ে যাচ্ছে তার প্রতিকারের কোন চেষ্টা নাই। দিন দিন এই সর্ধ জমির পাশাপাশি গ্রামগুলিও গীন বরিত হয়ে পড়েছে।

এই সকল গ্রামের উন্নতি করতে হলে এবং দেশের সম্পদ বৃদ্ধি করতে হলে এই সর্ধ কতিগ্রুত জমির পুন-রুদ্ধার করতে হবে--সেগুলিকে উর্বর ক্ষেত্রে পরিণত করতে হবে। তাই মহী মহাশয়কে আমি অনুমোদন করছি-বেন তিনি এই বিষয়ে আর আলসা না দেখিয়ে নদী দ্বারা কতিগ্রুত এই জমিগুলির পুনরুদ্ধার করার আত ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the development of the Sundarban area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, ২৪-পরগণা, বুলনা ও হুশরবন অকলের উন্নতির জন্য এ পর্যন্ত কোন চেষ্টা হয় নাই, বা তার উন্নতিকল্পে বে পরিমাণ টাকা ব্যয় করা সরকার তাহাও করা হয় নাই। সুতরাং এ বিষয়ে লীর্ধ আলোচনা করে বিশেষ কল হবে বলে আমি মনে করি না--কারণ গভর্ণ'মেন্ট বে বাজেট তৈরী করেছেন তাতে দেখা যায় যে, সেই বাজেটে এই সর্ধ এলাকার উন্নতিকল্পে কোন টাকা দেন নাই; এবং বাজেট বিভিন্ন করে পুনরায় বে টাকা দিবেন এ ধারণাও আমার নাই। তথাপি আমি সেখানকার লোকদের অবস্থা সম্পর্কে গভর্ণ'মেন্টের দৃষ্ট আকর্ষণ করতে চাই।

হুশরবন এলাকা, ভায়নওয়ারার সর্ধ ভিডিপন, সর্ধ সর্ধ ভিডিপন এবং বুলনার কোন কোন অকলে, আপনায় ওবে কাস্টার্য হবেন, এত বড় একটা বিরাট জায়গা—জর মধ্যে যাত্র ১৫টি Tube-well আছে। এই এলাকার মধ্যে যাত্র প'চ মাইল পাকা রাস্তা আর ৪২ মাইল কাঁচা রাস্তা। সেখানকার লোকদের বাজারভের কোন ভাল রাস্তাখাট নাই, যা আছে তা অতি সামান্য। বর্ধমানে মনোপখালী থানা প্রার দশ-বার মাইল areaতে বিদ্যুত, তার ভিতর একটি যাত্র Dispensary আছে, এবং সেটা এখন জায়গার অবস্থিত বে, নদী,

না। পার হারে লোককে সেখানে ঔষধ আনতে বেড়ে হয়। বর কই করে সেখানে উপস্থিত হলেও সেখা যায় যে সেখানে ভ্রূপীর শ্রমোজ্ঞনীয় ঔষধ বেই। সেখানে কোন চিকিৎসা হয় না। জরুরির থানা যদিও বড় রাজ্য উপর, কিন্তু সেখানেও যাত্রা একটি Dispensary আছে, এবং এটা খুলেছেন সেখানকার কোন একজন বিশিষ্ট ডাক্তার। হরিপুর অঞ্চলের লোকদের ভাল চিকিৎসা পাবার কোন উপায় নাই। ভারপর বখুয়াপুর, লক্ষীকান্তপুর লাইনে যে রাজ্য আছে সেটা নামেই রাজ্য। বর্ধাকালে সেখানে যাত্রারাত্র একেবারে অসুস্থ, এমন কি নৌকাযোগে যাত্রারাত্রেরও কোন সুবিধা নেই।

সেখানকার অধিবাসীরা প্রায় শেড় লক্ষ টাকা সেল্ বাবল গভর্ণমেন্টকে দিবে থাকে। তাদের টাকা দিয়ে গভর্ণমেন্টের আর হচ্ছে তাদের আশ্রয় জন্য, যাত্রাঘাটের জন্য বা শিক্ষার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। যদিও education cess গভর্ণমেন্ট আদায় করছেন তথাপি তাদের শিক্ষার জন্য যে সবত প্রাইমারী স্কুল করা সরকার এ পর্যন্ত তার কোন ব্যবস্থাই গভর্ণমেন্ট করেন নাই। যদি কোন লোক স্কুলের জন্য District Board-এর নিকট প্ররোচন করে, এবং নিজ প্ররোচন জমি ও ঘর দিতে প্রস্তুত থাকেন তথাপি তাঁদের স্কুল পাওয়ার কোন নিশ্চয়তা থাকে না। গভর্ণমেন্ট Agricultural cess আদায় করছেন, কিন্তু কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য সেখানে কোন ব্যবস্থাই করেন নাই। যদি কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য চেষ্টা করা হতো তাহলে ধান ছাড়াও সেখানে অন্ড্যান কলস উৎপাদন হতো পারত এবং তাতে তাদের আশ্রয় উন্নতি হতো। ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের যে Administration Enquiry Committee report বের হয়েছে সে report পড়লে ভাঙভাবে বোঝা যায় যে, গভর্ণমেন্ট নিজেই স্বীকার করেছেন যে, যদি সমরসত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা না যায় তাহলে এই ভাঙতুনি আরও বিস্তারিত হয়ে উঠবে। এই report এ বলা হয়েছে।

“The problem has another aspect, namely, the silting of the river beds, which compels the building of even higher embankments, to the ever-growing menace of the countryside. This silting of the rivers means that the natural drainage is interfered with, and, south-east of Calcutta, between the city and Port Canning, there is a large and expanding flooded area. We are told that in the opinion of the Engineers of the Irrigation Department this flooded area will increase manyfold if no action is taken within the next decade.”

আমার বলবার উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে যে, তাদের নিকট হতে গভর্ণমেন্ট এই cess বাবল টাকা নিচ্ছেন তাদের প্রস্তুত উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head “7—Land Revenue” be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the desirability of abolishing the Tanka system of rent-payment prevalent in some parts of the district of Mymensingh.

Sir, the issue of *tanka* system that I am going to raise in the discussion today has of late stirred up great interest throughout the whole province. In a far off isolated corner of the province a peasants’ movement has recently sprung up centering round this vital issue. This is not a sudden development, Sir. There is a painful history behind it. It is the culmination of a steadily growing feeling of discontent and resentment against the system of rent payment which has been crushing the poor, mute peasants of that locality for decades together. Sir, here are involved the questions of doing away with a system of gross rack-renting and doing away with a system of land tenure which manifestly smacks of feudalism and semi-slavery, a system that stands condemned by history. And apart from the question of economic incongruity the injustice that is being done to the peasants there is patent enough.

This issue relates to the fate and well-being of more than one lakh of peasants—Hajangs, Garos, Dalus, Namasudras, Muslims, Rajbanshis and many other aboriginals. This vast mass of people have been lying seething with discontent against this system of rack-renting which is sapping their material life constantly. This accumulated discontent sometimes under varying circumstances finds various channels of expression. Sir, the agitation of the suffering peasants, the Hajangs, has recently taken a very serious

turn as is known to everyone in this House. The police interference, the police excesses and firing upon the struggling peasants of Susang have grievously added to the poignancy of the situation. This grim development has got to be extremely deplored. My sympathy goes out to the suffering of the unsophisticated and helpless people. The other day Mr. Suhrawardy was explaining away the police firing upon the peasant Hajangs by laying the blame at the door of certain section of agitators misleading the peasants. If for argument's sake I accept the statement to be true, even then, Sir, I must say this is a remedy worse than the disease. This language of bullets and bayonets must fail in the long run. This cannot silence a well-founded agitation concerning the people's good. So, unless the root cause of this trouble is removed, troubles must be there. Remove that root cause and no agitators will find any ground to stand upon. All agitators will lose their job.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I was under the impression that I shall get 10 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, only 35 minutes have been allotted for the whole subject.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Let me say a few words regarding the *tanka* system. It is a system of rent payment in kind. The tillers are to pay rent in kind to the owners of land, not in money. So, before 1940 the tillers had to pay 7 to 15 maunds of paddy per acre whereas per acre land yield was only 15 to 20 maunds and there was agitation in 1937. After that Government intervened though haltingly and half-heartedly and they declared that peasants have *jote* rights in land and really *jote* right was granted but they will have to pay *salami* unless they occupy the land for 12 years. Even now they are to pay 5 to 15 maunds. So my demand is that the *tanka* system should be abolished at once and the *salami* should be discontinued and eviction also should be discontinued and none should be evicted from the land and people should be given occupancy right in the land.

With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to give price and compensation and any reduction of rent to the owners for the lands comprising the area of the ring *bunds* constructed by the Irrigation Department in villages Baisnabchak, Khaira, Brindabanchak, Golahat, Naskardighi, etc., on the banks of the Cossaye and Durbachati in Tamluk subdivision, district Midnapore.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have concrete instances to show how the provincial machinery of Government works callously and in shameful disregard of the sufferings of the people, which its policy of administration brings upon them.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I submit that this cut motion, namely, No. 39, is not admissible, because it relates to the Irrigation Department, as compensation which has been raised in this cut motion will be paid by the Revenue Department on the recommendation of the Irrigation Department. There is no question of Land Revenue or anything else. The Irrigation Department will deal with the idea and policy outlining the cut motion.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: But compensation is to be paid by the Revenue Department and not by any other department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It speaks of reduction of rent to the owners of the land. So it comes within the purview of this demand.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Pramanik please confine your speech to reduction of rent.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: All right, Sir. As I was saying I have concrete instances to show how the provincial machinery of Government works callously and in shameful disregard of the sufferings of the people, which its policy of administration brings upon them. At Baisnabchak, a village in Panskura police-station in the district of Midnapore, a ring bund has been constructed, obviously with a view to give extra support to the old bund against the flood of the Cossye river. Sir, I have nothing to say against the object of such a ring bund, but the immediate effect of the ring bund has been to heap immense suffering upon a large number of tenants and bring about ruin and destruction of many poor families. In between the ring bund and the old bund live a large number of tenants on a tract of land. The Government have taken possession of a large portion of the land, and excavated earth from the lands to build the ring bund. As a result, most of the lands which were the only source of subsistence of the people of the place have become uncultivable. Poor, hard-working cultivators who live on these lands with the sweat of their brow have no alternative source of earning. I declare, Sir, although four years have elapsed since the taking of the lands for the ring bund, not a pie has been paid up till now as price or compensation for the loss which the Government has caused them, neither have they been able to secure reduction of rent in any way from the landlords. Sir, is it not the clear duty of any civilized Government to make good the loss in similar cases? A popular Government would have long ago taken steps to redress the grievances of the poor people who have suffered in this way. Sir, Baisnabchak is not a solitary instance. There are other instances as well. Other villages viz., Khaira, Brindabanchak, Naskardighi and Golahat share the same fate. In village Golahat such a huge amount of earth has been taken that almost the entire area has been turned into a low pit with a large number of tanks. There is no sluice either on the ring bund or in the old one, with the result that the area has become water-logged. The homesteads look like small islands with surrounding areas under water. Sir, huge sums of money are spent each year for the salaries, establishment charges, etc., of the department; the Government should feel ashamed that they have not done their duty to the people by giving reasonable price and compensation and reduction and remission of rent although a long period of four years has elapsed since the date when such relief should have been granted. Thus the Government stands condemned for its callousness to the sufferings of the poor peasants.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the road from Magura to Jessore.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the road from Magura to Mahammadpur (Jessore).

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the road from Lahuria-Kaliganj to Mithapur via Jhumerghope (Jessore).

I next move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the road from Narail to Lakshmipasha (Jessore).

I then move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the road from Jessore to Narail (Jessore).

Lastly, I move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about National Highway from Jessore to Dhamra.

Sir, Jessore was once a very prosperous district but now it is getting poorer and poorer day by day. The causes of this deterioration can be traced to the insufficient communication. For want of extensive road system the industry and agriculture of the district suffer to the extreme.

The prosperity of any country depends upon the development of agriculture and industry. These on the other hand depend upon improved communication and transit. But to our utter despondence and surprise we see that the Government has not taken sufficient measures for the development project. The nation-building works are overlooked.

The total provision of twelve crores and ten lakhs in the current year's budget for the development projects is not exhausted. It shows how the Ministry is looking after the public interest.

Now, Sir, I turn to the roads mentioned in the cut motions. Roads are insufficient in Jessore. The villagers on either side of the big marshy land in Lahagara thana, Jessore, known as the Bil Ichhamati, are the worst sufferers for want of a road from Lahuria-Kaliganj to Mithapur. The Bil Ichhamati is extending over a vast land between the rivers Madhumati and Nabaganga. There are two local markets—one at the bank of Madhumati known as Kaliganj bazar and the other on the bank of Nabaganga known as Mithapur hat. These two markets are interdependent. The local people are Muslims and Namasudras and most of them are cultivators. They buy and sell their agricultural produce in these markets. They have to carry heavy loads on their heads and to walk over knee-deep mud and water even in the dry season of Baisakh and Jaistha.

Seeing their disadvantages and difficulties the ex-District Magistrate, Mr. I. Ali, recommended a road from Lahuria-Kaliganj to Mithapur via Jhamerghope. But the people have been disappointed to see no works done to that effect.

Sir, as to the existing roads mentioned in the cut motions, they are in such a deplorable condition that they are impassable all through the seasons. They require immediate repairing. Of these two roads one connecting Magura with Jessore and the other connecting Narail with Jessore are two important roads for the public and the Government officers as well. Sometimes in the dry season of the year motor buses ply with great difficulty. If these roads be converted into metalled roads buses can ply in all seasons for the best interests of the public.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion, Sir, to raise a discussion about the fantastic delay in conceding, by law, the right to two-thirds crops to the *adhiars* and *bargadars*.

In commending my motion I condemn with all the emphasis that I command the wilful and the treacherous policy of Government in not conceding, by law, the right to two-thirds share of the paddy to the *bargadars*. I condemn the Government because the Government is well aware that 41 per cent. of the *kisans* are *bargadars* and are entitled to the two-thirds share of the crops they produce. The justice of their demand

has been accepted as far back as 1940 by the Land Revenue Commission. Surprising though it may seem it was accepted by the Council of Ministers when, in a moment of forgetfulness, in a mood of playing up to the gallery, they introduced or drafted a Bill for giving two-thirds right to the *bargadars*. But unfortunately now it has been shelved, and I imagine, for ever.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry ought to be aware that these people have waited year after year to see their demands fulfilled. They have waited for the last seven years since the Land Revenue Commission submitted their report in their favour, but to no effect. But now when they have demanded their legitimate two-thirds share we hear of a challenge to law and order. Whenever we hear of a challenge to law and order, we know that the law is the law of exploitation and the order is the order for ruthless suppression of all peasant movements, and so we find the machinery of Government being employed in the outlying villages to wipe out the houses of *kisans* and *bargadars*; we find their women dishonoured; we find sten guns, revolvers and rifles taken to villages to terrorise the countryside. This is what we find when the *bargadars* claim not a change in law out of a prevailing iniquitous custom and yet the Government pretends that it is a friend of the people not of the whole people but at least of the Mussalmans. But the Ministry is surely aware that amongst the *bargadars* there are Hindus, Mussalmans, tribal people and scheduled caste people, but still we find that these people are being terrorised for this simple demand. On the other hand we also see—I have seen it for myself—in Khulna, Jalpaiguri and Mymensingh—and the report from Dinajpur tells us the same thing—that the *kisans* have nowhere been violent. What are the forces of Government in the outlying districts in the vastly scattered areas? Yet we find not a single police-station, not a single *jotedar's* house has been burnt down, not a single *jotedar* or *zemindar* has been killed, and yet we hear of a challenge to law and order when the *kisans* claim a rightful share of their paddy. Mr. Suhrawardy has told us of the breaking of law and order by these people, but I have myself seen in all the places that I have visited, the ravages created by the police. I want to ask the Ministry under which law did the police go and break up peasants' homes, dishonour their women and kill their children? I would request the Chief Minister to send his people, Muslim League M.L.A.'s, and find out what has been done by the police in those places in the name of law and order. I am sure those people who have given their lives—men like Samiruddin and Sibrum—in Dinajpur have not given their lives in vain. When the police riddled their bodies with bullets, these people went down saying “*ডে-ভাগা চাই; জান্ দেব, ডু গান দেব না*”, because they knew that if they could get their demand even by sacrificing their lives, their children would live well and they would be able to wipe out the tears from the eyes of their dear and near ones. That is why they have died for their little bit of paddy. Therefore I say that it is the Government which has conducted this lawlessness and not the *bargadars*.

With these words, Mr. Speaker, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. J. A. POWELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall confine my remarks to the proposed abolition of the Permanent Settlement. Spokesmen of this party have, on more than one occasion in the past, expressed very serious doubts regarding the wisdom of this measure. We have studied the various arguments in favour of abolition of zamindari, and while we recognise the evils in the present system, we are far from convinced that the remedy is not worse than the disease.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his reply to the general discussion on the budget laid stress on the difference between the meagre land revenue of three crores compared to the sum of thirteen crores going into the pockets

of the landlords in the form of rent. We can understand the desire of Government to deflect the latter into their coffers; but this means compensation, and it is axiomatic that if the rent-receiving interests are fully compensated there cannot be any profit to Government from this transaction. The gain to the public revenue will depend on the extent to which the Government cut down the compensation to the rent-receiving interests; this aspect of the proposal was made clear in the note of dissent to the Floud Commission recommendations by Mr. M. O. Carter and Sir F. A. Sachse, and my party strongly endorses their views that the rate of compensation should be such as to divorce the proposal entirely from any suspicion of being an attempt to augment the public revenues at the expense of a particular class.

We are therefore concerned to see the press reports regarding the rates of compensation payable by Government. We see no justification whatever for differing rates based on the income of the interests being acquired; and even the highest rate suggested amounts to a large measure of expropriation which cannot in our view be justified by any plea of political expediency.

We presume, Sir, that this abolition of the Permanent Settlement is intended to benefit both the public revenues and the people of this province as a whole, particularly the tiller of the soil. So far as the public revenues are concerned, my Party consider that the anticipated profits will not materialise. Sir Walter Gurner in his examination of the Floud Commission's estimates pointed out that these were of little value, as there were a number of important factors which had been overlooked. He showed that even on the basis of 10 times the net income—a grossly low valuation—there would be an annual deficit of 60 lakhs for 60 years.

On the other hand we have yet to see how the cultivator is going to benefit. His status will not change at all unless State acquisition is carried right down to the lowest grade, because it is wellknown that the chief abuses arising out of the present system take place at the bottom of the scale. We should also like to know whether the Government have any scheme of redistribution of land so as to provide economic holdings. Have they been successful in this respect in Khas Mahal areas? Will not the law of inheritance still stand in the way?

Do the Government intend to enhance rents? At present the Ministry is full of sympathy for the tenants and will not allow enhancement. Are they equally sympathetic in the Khas Mahals? Or is this sympathy a ruse to keep down the value of the rent-receiver's interest?

We shall be interested to know, Sir, the exact number of persons in Bengal whose livelihood at present depends upon the existing land tenure system. These are the people who are going to suffer. What alternative employment is going to be available to them? How will they manage on a greatly reduced income? We believe this number would far exceed the number admitted in the Land Revenue Commission's report which put the figure at more than 15 millions, that is to say, one-third of the entire population of this province and therefore a much larger proportion of the actual rural population. This suggests that the abolition of landlordism will mean a complete disintegration of social classes and a collapse in the existing rural society for the Permanent Settlement is not merely a financial transaction, it has gone deep down into the economic and social structure of the countryside and its replacement is therefore fraught with grave consequences and is bound to have widespread repercussions.

In conclusion, Sir, my Party fully realise that the Ministry is determined to go through with the abolition of the Permanent Settlement in spite of the many difficulties standing in the way. We hope, however, that the Bill, when it is finally passed, will relieve our anxieties and do justice in the matter of assessment of compensation to all classes who will be dispossessed of their interest in the land.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY : মিঃ শ্রীকার স্যার, একথা কারুরই অজানা নয় যে পরাধীন দেশের জনসাধারণকে নানা রকম লাঞ্ছনা ভোগ করতে হয়। সর্ব কর্তৃপক্ষাধিপতির বহুনিষিদ্ধ চির-স্থায়ী বন্দোবস্তের কালে বাংলার চাষীদের যে লাঞ্ছনা ভোগ করতে হয়েছে তা সর্ব্ব বর্ষে অনুভব করছি আমরা। নীলকণ্ঠের অনানুদিক অত্যাচারের কথা আমরা আজও ভুলে যাইনি। বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ নদীতাল্লা প্রজার দুঃখও আকাশ ছুঁয়েছে। বাংলার “ইডকুই” নামের বাংলা ভাষার উজাড়ী বলে অভিহিত করা বার তাদের দুঃখ কিত্ত অন্যান্য সকল দুঃখকে ছাড়িয়ে গিয়েছে। শ্রীকার মহাশয় ১৯৪২ সালের এপ্রিল মাসে দুর্ভিক্ষ আপাতের সঙ্গে যুদ্ধে বৃষ্টিপাত সাহায্যবাদের বর্ষন নাড়িয়াস উপস্থিত হয়েছিল—যে কোন যুদ্ধেও সঙ্গোবনে অপসারণ করতে হবে বলে তাঁরা হয়েছিলেন খির-নিশ্চয়, সেই সময় তাঁরা তাকাচ্ছিলেন বাংলার জনসাধারণের দিকে।

সাহায্যবাদের এই চরম বিপদের দিনে অতীতের শত অপরাধ ভুলে বাঙ্গালী সহানুভূতির হস্ত প্রসারিত করে ছিল। শুধু তাই নয়, বাড়ীঘর, স্বাবর-অস্বাবর সম্পত্তি ছেড়ে বাঙ্গালী সেদিন কাসীবাদের বিরুদ্ধে ইরাজকে সাহায্য করেছিল মোহাখালী ত্রিপুরা, চট্টগ্রাম, বর্ধমান, ঢাকা, বগোহর, ২৪-পরগণা, দিনাজপুর প্রভৃতি জেলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক সর্ব্ব স্ব কোরবানী করে সেই সঙ্কট সময়ে ইরাজকে রক্ষা করেছে। এইভাবে জনসম্বন্ধ পেয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাংলার নানা জায়গায় যুদ্ধের ঘাঁটি—টান্ডিনি তৈরী করেছে। ১৯৪২ সনের এপ্রিল মাসে এক চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে বহু বিমান ঘাঁটি তৈরী হয়েছিল। ছোট কেশী বহুকরায় আরোহণের তৈরী হয়েছে তিনটি, অপসারিত হয়েছে শতাধিক গ্রাম, উজাড় হয়েছে লক্ষাধিক লোক। হঠাৎ একদিন পোনা গেল চোন পিটিয়ে বলা হচ্ছে কাসীপদী আপান এই এল বলে : বাড়ীঘর দিয়ে বিষয় সম্পত্তি ছেড়ে সাহায্য কর আশাদের। যুদ্ধ শেষে পূর্ণ কতিপূরণ সহ সম্পত্তি ফিরিয়ে দেব। এই আবেদনের বলে নিরীহ গ্রামবাসী নীরবে বিষয় সম্পত্তি ছেড়ে দিয়ে সাহায্যবাদের রক্ষা করেছে। সেইদিন শুধু শ্রীযুক্ত সতীশ দাসগুপ্ত ও জন কয়েক যুগলিন কম্বী রুখে দাঁড়িয়েছিলেন : “অগ্রিম কতিপূরণ আদায় কর তারপর বাড়ী ছাড়বে।”

কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রতিশ্রুতিতে জনসাধারণ সেদিন বিশ্বাস স্থাপন করেছিল। বিনা সন্তে তারা তাদের সর্ব্ব ছেড়ে দিয়ে সাহায্য করেছে সামরিক কর্তৃপক্ষকে। কয়েক পুরুষের বাস্তবতা ছেড়ে উজাড়ীরা সেদিন পথে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছিল। আপত্তি তারা করেনি এই ভরসা যে যুদ্ধ শেষে সকল কতিপ দাবী তারা পূরণ করে পাবে।

আজ যুদ্ধ ইরাজের জয় হয়েছে—কুল-চলন পড়ুক তাদের মুখে, কিন্তু প্রতিশ্রুতি ভঙ্গ করতে বৃষ্টি এতটুক ইতস্ততঃ করল না। যুদ্ধশেষে আজ কর্তৃপক্ষ ভুলে গিয়েছে কার ত্যাগ ও কোরবানীকে ভিত্তি করে তাঁরা জরী হয়েছেন যুদ্ধে। ভারত রক্ষা আদায় রত বিষয় সম্পত্তি ভরি দখল করা শুরু হয়েছিল ১৯৪২ সনের এপ্রিলে। আর সেপ্টেম্বর, অক্টোবর মাসে গভর্নমেন্ট ৯৩৫৯ (১০)নং চিঠিতে ঘোষণা করেছিলেন যে কতিপূরণ দেওয়া হবে। এই ঘোষণার বর্ধাঙ্গা রক্ষা হয়নি। এর পর যা ঘটছে তা শুধু প্রতিশ্রুতি ভাঙারই ইতিহাস। অবিচার ও প্রতিশ্রুতি ভঙ্গের কয়েকটি উদাহরণ এখানে উল্লেখ করি। প্রথমতঃ উপযুক্ত কতিপূরণ দেওয়া হয়নি। দ্বিতীয়তঃ কতিপূরণ, আলানী কাঠের কতিপূরণ, বাড়ীঘর, মাঠ, পুকুর, খান ক্ষেত বিকৃত করার কতিপূরণ, জীবিকার কতিপূরণ, ঘরের কতিপূরণ, শস্যের কতিপূরণ—কোথাও একেবারে দেওয়া হয়নি—কোথাও যা দেওয়া হয়েছে শুবই সামান্য পরিমাণে। এ সম্পর্কে একটি উদাহরণই যথেষ্ট, যেখানে মিলিটারী কনস্টাবল বর্গ ঘুটে ও। ঢাকা পেয়েছে, সেখানে উজাড়ীরা ঘরের কতিপূরণ পেয়েছে আট আনা করে। যুদ্ধের সময় ধানের দর অসম্ভব রকম বেড়ে গিয়েছিল। কিন্তু শুকতে চাষীরা এক একর জমির কতিপূরণ পেয়েছে ১০০০ টাকা, পরে পেয়েছে ১৪০০ টাকা, বহু জমি আবার হিসাবে বাত পড়েছে। বহু জমি তালিকার উঠেছে দখলের দুই বছর পর। ভিত্তি জমিতে চাষী তরিতরকারী ও অন্যান্য অনেক কিছু উপার্জন করত। এই হিসাবে কতিপূরণ একাত্তই অস্বাভাবিক।

১৯৪৫ সনের ২৭শে জুলাইএর গভর্নমেন্টের চিঠি নং ১৪৮৫৮ (২৮) অনুসারে যে ব্যাপারে কতিপূরণের রেট ধার্য হয়ে গিয়েছে তার পরিবর্তন করা যে-আইনী। অথচ সরকারী কর্তৃচাষীরা ডবল পেমেণ্টের অজুহাতে ইচ্ছামত দেওয়া টাকা কেটে নিয়েছেন। ফলতঃ গাছের যে কতিপূরণ দেওয়া হয়েছিল, বাগানের কতিপূরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে এই অজুহাতে তা কেটে দেওয়া হচ্ছে। অথচ কলত গাছের কতিপূরণ বাগানের কতিপূরণ থেকে অনেক বেশী। ঘরের মাপ নিতে গিয়ে ঘরের বাহিরের অংশ একেবারে বাদ দেওয়া হয়েছে।

কেন্দ্রীতে রিভিনিউপালিট নাই স্বতন্ত্রাৎ কেন্দ্রী সহর নয়, এই অজুহাতে কেন্দ্রী কারার প্রিপেড স্থানায়িত করা হয়েছে। গ্রাম বলে কেন্দ্রীতে রেননিংএর স্থবিধা নেই। অথচ বাড়ীর কতিপূরণ দেওয়ার সময় কেন্দ্রীকে সহর হিসাবে চালিয়ে বাড়ীর মূল্য না দিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে মাসিক হিসাবে ভাড়া।

হারীভাবে acquire করা জমির সম্পূর্ণ কতিপূরণ শুরুতেই এক সঙ্গে দেওয়া উচিত ছিল। এখন দেখা যাচ্ছে সম্পূর্ণ কতিপূরণ থেকে অস্বাভাবিক acquire এর টাকা বাদ দেওয়া হচ্ছে।

বাড়ী কিরে বাওয়ার বয়স এখনও “ইজাকুইয়া” পারনি পূরাপুরি। যারা উজাড় হইবে কর্তৃপক্ষকে সাহায্য করিতে তাদের ন্যূন বাড়ী ভেরী করবার জন্য দেওয়া হইছে না বাল, বসলা, চিন। নানা জারগার নিজে বাড়ী কিরে বাওয়ার অপরাধে বহু উজাড়ীর বিরুদ্ধে রুজু করা হইয়াছে বাবলা। জমিকে নানাভাবে বিকৃত করা হইয়াছিল দাববিক পুরোজবে, এখন স্বাভাবিক অবস্থার কিরিরে দেওয়া হইছে না সে সব জমি। যে কতিপূরণ দেওয়া হইয়াছে তাও পরিমাণে অল্প এবং দেওয়া হইয়াছে বহুদিন ডুগিরে, ছয় আনা পরসা দেওয়া হইয়াছে চেকের সাহায্যে।

কেণী ল্যাওকরণপেনসেসন্স অফিসে উৎকোচ গ্রহণ নিত্য নৈমিত্তিক ব্যাপার হয়ে পড়িয়াছে। কিছুদিন এখানে কেমাণী গিরি করে হাজার হাজার টাকা রোজগার করেছেন এমন লোকের অভাব নেই। এখানের হিসাব রাখার নিয়মবুদি পোকাানের নিয়ম চেয়েও খারাপ—একথা রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী মোরাজ্জের উদ্দিন সাহেবের কথা। লোকের ধারণা কেণী এন, সি, ও অফিসে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ঘুস নেওয়া হইয়াছে। ঘুসের মাঝারি অফিসাররা পড়েছেন এমন দজিরেরও অভাব নেই। গত ৫ বৎসরে ৫ জন অফিসার এসেছেন তাঁরা সকলেই এক বিশেষ সম্প্রদায়ের লোক। এই ব্যাপারে মুসলমানদের দাবী উপেক্ষিত হইয়াছে—ঘুস আজও বন্ধ হয়নি।

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is over.

MR. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY : আর এক মিনিট সময় দিন যার উজাড়ীদের সম্বন্ধে বাংলা সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করলে তাঁরা বলেন লায়িক ভারত সরকারের। জওয়াহর লাল নেহরুর ভারত সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করলে তাঁরা বলেন—লায়িক সামরিক কর্তৃপক্ষের।

উজাড়ী সমস্যা আজ গুরুতর আকার ধারণ করেছে। এই জটিল সমস্যার সমাধান না হলে যে কোন পরি-
স্থিতির উত্তর হতে পারে। এইজন্য এই পরিষদের সদস্যদের নিয়ে একটি তদন্ত কমিটি গঠিত হোক—রাজস্ব
মন্ত্রীর নিকট এই আবার প্রত্যাহ।

সম্প্রতি রায়বাহাদুর দীনেন্দ্রচন্দ্র গুপ্ত স্পেশাল অফিসার নিযুক্ত হইয়াছেন উজাড়ীদের সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত করবার জন্য
টার মিপোর্ট বিখ্যাস করছে রাইটচাঁপ বিলিঙএর ক বুডরের খোঁপে।

ইংরাজ অবিলম্বে ভারত ত্যাগ করছে। ভারত ত্যাগের আগেই সর্বু হারা বাস্তহারা উজাড়ীদের কতিপূরণ
জবে আসলে আদায় করে নিতে হবে একথা বেন আমরা না ভুলি।

কেণীতে সরবরাহ মন্ত্রী গিরে বলে এসেছেন “উজাড়ীরা তাদের জমি চাষ করুক। নইলে এসব জমি অন্য
লোককে চাষ করতে দেওয়া হবে।” অথচ বিকৃত পাখরের মত শক্ত জমি স্বাভাবিক অবস্থায় কিরিরে দেওয়ার
কোন ব্যবস্থা তিনি করেননি।

(Mr. Ahmed Ali Mridha stood on his legs.)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry I cannot allow you any time as you did not rise in time.

MR. AHMED ALI MRIDHA : My name is in the list of speakers.

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is there, but that is not all. The name is submitted to me and the member who wants to speak has got to signify his intention by rising in his seat that he wants to speak. I am sorry I cannot allow you to speak. I am also hard-pressed for time.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN : Sir, before I begin to reply to the various points raised in course of the cut motions and also in course of the debate, I would like to announce the policy of this Government which relates to the legislative measures and other administrative measures. We intend to proceed with a number of legislations during the current session. We want to introduce a Bill into the Assembly intended to abolish the seminary system. As a matter of fact it should be more appropriately described as State acquisition of rent receiving interests. This I propose to do towards the end of this month or beginning of the next month, and I will propose to refer it to a Select Committee. With a view to the acquisition of rent-receiving interests certain steps have already been taken by this Government. We have completed revisional settlement operation in the district of Faridpur, nearly completed in the district of Bakarganj

and the operation is going on in the Sundarbans area and we propose to begin revisional settlement operation in Burdwan and Birbhum in the next cold weather.

Then, Sir, you know that Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill was introduced and it is now before the Select Committee. The Select Committee has now completed its task and the Bill will be proceeded with as reported by the Select Committee in this House during the next month. You are aware that the Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill does not cover Calcutta and this has created a situation in which the *ticca* tenants of Calcutta will not receive any benefit of that law. Therefore, we propose to bring a Bill in the Upper House this session, namely *Ticca Tenancy Bill*, by which it is intended to give protection to them against arbitrary eviction and enhancement of rent. The interest also will be hereditary and transferable.

Another important measure I would like to bring during this session, namely acquisition of waste lands. This measure is intended to help the execution of various development projects of this Government and also to increase the food supply of the Province as also to settle lands to the landless labourers, *bargudars* and persons displaced for various reasons from lands and also to make small uneconomic holdings as far as practicable economic holdings on the waste lands. Government intends that these waste lands will be first acquired, then they will be improved upon, then will be made cultivable and then they will be settled with persons who are in need of them.

Another important measure that I will introduce into this House is the Bill of the Land Acquisition. It may not be possible to proceed with the Bill during this session but I will introduce this Bill and proceed during the next session with the amendment of the Land Acquisition Act in order to make expeditious acquisition of lands. Under the present Land Acquisition Act it takes a long time and there are other defects of the Act which are required to be removed.

With regard to the administration of the Khas Mahals it is a fact that our hopes have not been realised in the sense that the Khas Mahal management has not been as ideal as it was intended to be. There is no human element between the Khas Mahal management and the tenantry. I propose to revise the whole policy so as to bring human element in the administration of the Khas Mahal.

Now I will begin to reply to the various cut motions moved. With regard to cut motion No. 24 regarding lands devastated by floods, especially in the district of Burdwan, I will take this House into confidence and they will themselves judge how it was not a possible task for the Government to reclaim these lands or to remove sand from these areas. The area affected by sand in the Burdwan District alone is 3.75 square miles, i.e., 2,400 acres of land. It was estimated by this Government that rupees one crore will be required for reclaiming these lands, i.e., Rs. 4,000 per acre are to be spent in order to make these lands cultivable. This is a prohibitive cost, but Government are examining the question whether steps can be taken to help the deposit of silt on these lands. This examination has not yet been completed.

Next I shall deal with cut motion No. 30 to raise a discussion about the development of the Sundarbans area. With regard to this the real difficulty is the difficulty of embankments and drainage. Failure of maintaining or erecting these embankments is the cause of deterioration of health, deterioration of the condition of land and also failure of crops due to encroachment of salt water into the cultivated lands. So long this has been the responsibility of the Zemindars to maintain these embankments, but they have not been found alive to this responsibility. Government could make them do that, but they have failed because of want of legislation. The only solution Government have found is mentioned in the Report

of the Administration Committee of Rowlands. According to that report the only remedy that can be had is to acquire the entire Sundarbans area and then proceed with the improvement schemes. In the meantime Government have asked the Settlement Officer of that area to prepare an all-comprehensive scheme of improvement, and as soon as that is received, Government will try to give effect to that.

With regard to the *tanka* system the question of harshness of this system came prominently before the Government in 1938-39. A revisional settlement was done in 1940 and a Regulation was issued by the Governor as this system concerns mostly the excluded areas in the district of Mymensingh and according to that Regulation this rent in kind has been reduced by one-third. (Mr. Manoranjan Dhar: Why not abolish it?)

Now the question is being examined in this department as to whether this rent in kind can be converted into a rent in cash. Under the present law it is not possible as there is no section corresponding to section 40 in the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1928. In that year section 40 was repealed and as such it is not now possible to convert it into cash rent. Therefore we are thinking as to whether we should reinstate that section in the Bengal Tenancy Act, and that question is now under the consideration of Government. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: When are you going to do that?). And the moment the Government decides that it needs that amendment, the amendment will be made.

Then with regard to land acquisition in connection with Land Development project, I can assure the House that all steps will be taken to expedite the acquisition of land and payment of compensation on that account.

With regard to the questions regarding road development, they do not concern my department and my colleague in the other department will answer those questions at the proper time.

With regard to the various questions that have been raised by Mr. Powell, I intend to deal with those questions when I introduce a Bill before the House at the end of the month. The rate of compensation has been fixed in the Bill and this has been considered by the Government to be fair having taken into consideration all the circumstances of the case and all aspects of the question.

With regard to the complaint of my friend Mr. Habibullah Chaudhury, I may tell him that I have already taken steps to remove these grievances and I have already appointed two officers to expedite the question of compensation and to go into the whole question of the revision of the rate of compensation, and that is being done.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions that have been moved.

The motion of Mr. Jadabendra Nath Panja that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Hem Chandra Naskar that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Dhar that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a Division taken with the following result:—

AYES 99.

Acharjee, Mr. Shitangshu Kanta.
Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra.
Bandyopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerjee, Mr. Gobindaal.
Banerjee, Mr. Suali Kumar.
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Mr. Nemanata Kumar.
Basu, Mr. Jyoti.

Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra.
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Muhindra Nath.
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada.
Bishta, Mr. Sir.
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra.
Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra.
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra.

Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal.
 Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prasad.
 Das, Miss Bina.
 Das, Mr. Brojomadhab.
 Das, Mr. Jegendra Chandra.
 Das, Mr. Radha Nath.
 Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath.
 Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra.
 Dass, Mr. Kanailal.
 Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath.
 De, Mr. Kanai Lal.
 Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan.
 Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
 Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
 Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
 Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari.
 Gayen, Mr. Arabinda.
 Ghose, Mr. A. K.
 Ghose, Mr. Bimal Cemar.
 Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra.
 Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra.
 Gupta, Mr. J. C.
 Gupta, Mr. Manoranjan.
 Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand.
 Jalan, Mr. Iswar Das.
 Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.

Lahiri, Mr. Prevas Chandra.
 Mahanty, Mr. Choru Chandra.
 Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
 Majhi, Mr. Nishapati.
 Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati.
 Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
 Mallik, Mr. Ashutech.
 Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad.
 Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
 Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan.
 Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
 Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath.
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra.
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna.
 Rai Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
 Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Roy, Mr. Ram Hari.
 Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna.
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan.
 Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath.
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
 Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra.
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra.
 Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.

NOES—126.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.
 Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
 Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
 Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
 Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
 Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরi, Mr. Md.
 Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad.
 Abdul Hamid, Mr.
 Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
 Abdul Hannan, Mr.
 Abdul Karim, Mr.
 Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
 Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir.
 Abdul Momin, Mr.
 Abdullahi Baqui, Mr. Md.
 Abdul Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M.
 Abdul Rahman Khan (alias Nuru Mia), Mr.
 Abdur Rasohid Mahmood, Mr.
 Abdur Rashid, Maulana Khondkar.
 Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed.
 Abidur Reza Choudhury, Mr.
 Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
 Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi.
 Abul Quasem, Mr.
 Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir.
 Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
 Ahmed Hosain, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Akbar Ali, Maulvi.
 Ali Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
 Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
 Anwara Khatun.
 Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.
 Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
 Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.
 Badruzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
 Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
 Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra.
 Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath.
 Biswas, Mr. Bhela Nath.
 Biswas, Mr. Gayanath.
 Duff, Mr. D. I.
 Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
~~madan~~ Ahammad, Mr.

Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
 Emery, Mr. A. J.
 Fazlul Karim, Mr.
 Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
 Fisk, Mr. F. W.
 Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed.
 Hafizuddin Choudhury, Mr.
 Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Hasan Ali, Mr.
 Hatem Ally, Khan Sahib.
 Husan Ara Begum.
 Hutcheson, Mr.
 Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
 Jonab Ali Mia, Mr.
 Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
 Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah Salyid.
 Khuda Buksh, Mr. Md.
 Khurram Khan Panee, Mr.
 Luke, Mr. H. A.
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr.
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan.
 Madar Bux, Mr.
 Mahammad Afzal, Mr. Syed.
 Mahammad Owais, Mr.
 Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
 Majibar Rahman, Maulvi.
 Malik, Dr. A. M.
 Martuza Reza Choudhury, Mr.
 Masiuddin Ahmed (alias Raja Miah), Mr.
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Taiyab.
 Methold, Mr. J. H.
 Moharak Ali Ahmed, Mr.
 Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mozammel Hossain, Dr.
 Mudeasir Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
 Muhammad Idris, Maulvi.
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
 Muhammad Israeli, Mr.

Muhammad Quasem, Md. Masud Majid.
 Muhammad Sumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Sumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed.
 Muttick, Mr. Mukunda Bohary.
 Mugharruf Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
 Muzaffar Rahman Chowdhury, Mr.
 Najmul Huq, Mr. Md.
 Nasarulla, Nawabjeda, K.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nazir Hossain Khan, Mr.
 Nurazzaman, Mr.
 Osman Ali, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Parich, Mr. P. E. G. W.
 Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Pentony, Mr. L. R.
 Platel, Mr. R. E.
 Powell, Mr. J. A.

Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan.
 Ricketta, Mrs. E. M.
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore).
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Bakurhat).
 Serajul Islam, Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (alias Sadaba Mia), Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
 Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md.
 Sharfuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
 Stark, Mr. A. F.
 Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. M. S.
 Tafazzal Ali, Mr.
 Todd, Mr. N. K.
 Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
 Wilkinson, Mr. G.
 Wilks, Mr. G. C. D.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. G., O.I.E.
 Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 69 and the Noes 126, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Rajani Kanta Pramanik that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The six motions of Mr. Bejoy Krishna Sarker that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 were then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs. 89,02,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman that a sum of Rs. 89,02,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

(The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

27—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,06,21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice".

Mr. PROYASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to do speedy justice by disposal of cases earlier and to introduce vernacular as the court-language which can help speedy termination of the cases in courts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা দেশের আদালতগুলি সম্পর্কে অনুসন্ধান করলে দেখা যায় যে, কৌজলারী এবং বেওয়ারী বোকদমার সুশীকৃত হয়ে আছে। এই বোকদমারগুলির বহুদিন যাবৎ কোন নিশ্চিতি হচ্ছে না। কোন কোন বোকদমার বাসের পর বাস কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে বৎসরের পর বৎসর কেটে যাচ্ছে—তবু তার চূড়ান্ত নিশ্চিতি হচ্ছে না। তার কারণ অবিকার্য্য ক্ষেত্রে বেওয়ারী বোকদমার দেখা যায় যারোঁর অনুপাতে বিচারকের অভাব। কৌজলারী বাবলার কোলার দেখা যায় যে, জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট অথবা মহকুমা হাফিসেরা শানন সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারের বকবলে ঘোরা ঘোরা করেন, আর এদিকে মাঝা জমতে থাকে এবং কোকের হরদারীর চূড়ান্ত হয়, তবু তাই নয়, কৌজলারী বাবলার আদালতও জেলে পড়তে থাকে। এর পরে যখন মাঝা আরও হয় তখন আবার অস্বাভাবিকভাবে দেবী হয়। আবার যখন হয় যে, বাংলা ভাষা কোর্ট ভাষা না হওয়ার দরুনই এই অস্বাভাবিক দেবীর কারণ। এই সম্পর্কে

প্রাক্তনবঙ্গীয় ভূগোলী শ্রী, শ্রী, মায় তাঁর Life of a Bengali Scientist পুস্তকে ভূগোলিকের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছিলেন। তিনি যে সময় এই পুস্তকটি লিখেন তখন বাংলা দেশে একটা আন্তঃশ্রমণিক বড়খর বাংলা চলছিল। এই মানবীয় বিচারের ভয় বাস করে চলছিল। তিনি তাতে কলমেছেন যে, এই মানবীয় আলাদা সবল বাঙালী, বিচারক বাঙালী এবং নাকী বাঙালী, কিন্তু বাংলার নাকী হওয়ার পরে তার আলাদা ইংরেজীতে ভরসা করে নিয়ে ভূগোলী হাফিন লিখেন। কাজেই এত অব্যক্তিক বেরী হয়। এ বিষয়ে তিনি বহু কথা তাঁর পুস্তকে লিখে গিয়েছেন। আলাদার দেশের কোর্টের ভাষা শ্রমণিক ভাষা হওয়া উচিত। তাতে বাংলা ভাষাভাষী নিপত্তি হতে পারে। বাংলা ভাষা আর পূর্বের ন্যায় নাই। এখন বাংলা ভাষার বর্ষেই উন্নতি হয়েছে। স্বতন্ত্র সৈনিক নিয়ে কোর্ট ভাষা যদি বাংলা হয় কাজের কোন অল্পবিধা হওয়ার কারণ আছে বলে আমার মনে হয় না। আরও জানি বাংলা দেশে স্বাধীন ত্রিশুরা আছে কোর্ট ভাষা বাংলা ভাষা। সেখানে জজেরা যে দায় লিখেন তাও বাংলা লিখেন। সমস্ত কাজকর্ম সেখানে বাংলায় হয়। তথাপি এখানে কেন হতে পারে না? এতদিন না হয় ইংরেজ প্রভুতা এ দেশে ছিলেন; তাঁদের স্বাধীনতা জন্য কোর্ট ভাষা ইংরেজী করা হয়েছিল এবং আলাদার অনেক অল্পবিধা ভোগ করতে হয়েছে (Mr. J. C. GUPTA : এখনও আছে।) এখনও আছে ঠিক কিছু তাদের হওয়ার ঘটনা বেছে উঠেছে। (A VOICE: বেড়ে লিখেন না আপনামা।) স্বতন্ত্র এখন থেকে এইসব আলাদার প্রভুত হওয়া দরকার এবং আমি আশা করি এদিকে কর্তৃপক্ষ বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি লিখেন আর যাতে বাংলাগুলি ভাষাভাষী নিপত্তি হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করবেন। এবং সেজন্য আমার মনে হয় একটা Committee হওয়া উচিত। এই Committee'র কাজ হবে যে, বাংলা দেশের প্রত্যেক জেলার খবর নিয়ে কতটা বাংলা এই রকম বন্ধন আছে এবং সেগুলি কতদিন থেকে বন্ধন আছে ইত্যাদি এবং বাংলাগুলি সম্পর্কে তাঁরা সম্পূর্ণভাবে অনুদান করবেন কেন মূলতঃই আছে। এই যদি করা হয় তাহলে বাংলাগুলি ভাষাভাষী নিপত্তি হতে পারে।

আর কতগুলি কর্তৃত্বী নিয়োগ করা দরকার। কর্তৃত্বী নিয়োগের কথা যখনই উঠে তখনই Communal Ratio র জোরে অবাধ্য লোক নিধক হয়। স্বতন্ত্র কোন কাজ হয় না। এই কথা বলে আমি আমার cut motionটি পরিষদের সমর্থনের জন্য উপস্থাপন করছি।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the necessity of retrenchment, the delay in disposal of criminal cases, the delay in disposal of civil suits mainly due to inadequate number of judicial officers, the low pay of the lower grade clerks, the process-servers and other menials, the method of recruitment of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors, and the method of recruitment of the Munsifs.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about (a) the accumulation of pending cases in the Hon'ble High Court, (b) the delay in disposal of cases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have had an opportunity of referring to the monthly cause list that is published in the High Court for this month, namely, March, 1947. On an examination of the monthly cause list it will be found that 5,524 cases are pending before the High Court, and the approximate number of cases which are being ready for the General List and Monthly List will not be less than 2,000. So the number of pending cases is about 8,000. Sir, you will be astonished to learn that under Order 41, Rule 8, 10 cases are pending for the first appeal and in respect of second appeal there are 2,189 cases pending before the High Court. Some of the cases are pending since 1945, and I know there are a large number of cases with regard to the first appeal which are pending even since the year 1938. Sir, I have heard from an advocate that the accumulation of cases in the High Court has become scandalous. Question arises what it is due to? Shall I tell the House that it is due to the appointment of the inefficient Judges? What it is due to? In answer I shall say that it is due to the fact that most of the appointments in the High Court are political appointments. (Cries of "Question, Question")

from the Government Party benches.) You may question it, but the appointments are political appointments. I know that most of the Judges could not dispose of one case even in respect of the first hearing cases coming under Order 41, Rule 11, C.P.C. This shows the inefficiency of the Judges. There are 19 Judges. I am told by a good many advocates and lawyers of the High Court that even 50 Judges of the existing calibre will not be able to dispose of all these cases. You know, Sir, that justice delayed is justice denied. Even in respect of the disposal of criminal cases in the lower courts the situation is scandalous. In my District a few cases are pending for the last eight years. There are a large number of cases pending for two or three years and undertrial prisoners are rotting in jails for a long period. This is really scandalous. This is due to the fact that the Judges are inefficient. It is also due to the fact that the Subdivisional Officers do not take care of cases. They roam about and only take care of the Civil Supplies Department. The reasons are obvious. I need not tell the House that most of the officers have become fat. There is no end of corruption. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is disgraceful that a new form of corruption has entered the judiciary. From my experience as a lawyer for the last 36 years I can tell you that in this Department of judiciary corruption has entered to such an extent now that it is impossible to appear before the Judges. There has entered a new form of corruption in the judiciary. (Cries of "No, No" from the Government Party benches.) You do not know anything of the judiciary. Certainly a new form of corruption has entered there.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, please confine yourself to the subject-matter of the cut motion. There is no mention of corruption.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I can speak generally on the cut motion. I submit, Sir, that I should not be disturbed. Sir, as I have said, there is a new form of corruption which has entered into the judiciary. Sir, communalism has entered the judiciary. I do not speak of Hindu Judges or Muslim Judges, but I am pained to see that communalism has entered into the minds of the Judges of the Courts. On account of this communalism justice is being denied in many cases. I know of cases where the accused persons charged with grievous offences in connection with disturbances have been released on bail. I know from my own experience that the District Judge has cancelled these orders. (A voice: Communal District Judge.) No, he is not a communal District Judge. Whoever he may be, if you say it is a communal District Judge, then you admit my argument that a new form of corruption has entered into the judiciary. Then, Sir, I shall refer to the delay in the disposal of civil suits. It is mainly due to want of judicial officers. Munsiffs are not being appointed for the last 24 years as it will appear from the answer given to a question of mine recently. I put a question to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge wanting to know why Munsiffs have not been appointed. In many places Munsiffs are transferred but new incumbents are not posted. What is the reason for this? It is, I am told, on account of communal virus that appointments are not made, and so there is delay in the disposal of civil suits.

Next thing I want to say is with regard to the low pay of lower grade clerks and process servers and others. A resolution was passed some years back in 1939 when Mr. Fazlul Huq was the Chief Minister, with regard to the pay of process servers. That resolution, I am told, is still under consideration. I do not know how long more it will remain under the consideration of the Government. I hope justice will be done to low paid clerks, process servers and menials without any further delay.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BROJOMADHAS DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to separate executive from the judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, অর্ধ শতাব্দীর অবিকাকাল যাবৎ আমাদের দেশে Judiciaryকে Executive থেকে পৃথক করার জন্য আন্দোলন চলে আসছে। কিন্তু এডকাল আমলাতান্ত্রিক শাসন-ব্যবস্থা থাকার সে চেষ্টা সফল হয় নাই। কিন্তু ১৯৩৭ সালে আমাদের এই পুদেশে স্বায়ত্ত শাসন ব্যবস্থার পূর্ববর্তন হয়েছে এবং জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রিবলী শাসনকার্য পরিচালনা করছেন, তথাকথিত জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রিবলী। কিন্তু আগে যে ব্যবস্থা ছিল সেই ব্যবস্থার কি কোন পরিবর্তন হয়েছে? কোন পরিবর্তনই হয়নি। বরং অবস্থা আরও অবনতির দিকে গিয়েছে। ১৯৩৫ সালে ঢাকা-খাতক আইনে ব্যবস্থা ছিল কোন গ্রন্থি সভাকার ঞ্চ কিনা Civil Court তার বিচার করবে। কিন্তু এই জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রিবলী কর্তৃক সেই আইন সংশোধন করে ব্যবস্থা করা হ'ল, সে জিনিষ বিচার করবে subdivisional Officer এবং জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট। আমরা এখানে সকলে জানি যে, শ্রুতোক সভ্যদেশে বিচার বিভাগ এবং শাসন বিভাগ পৃথক। আমাদের নাগরিক স্বাধীনতা ও ব্যক্তি-স্বাধীনতা এহনি জিনিষ যে এই দুটো বিচার বিভাগের স্বাধীনতার উপর নির্ভর করে। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে সেখানে পাঁচি শাসন বিভাগের উপর বিচারের দায়িত্ব ন্যস্ত করা হচ্ছে। একজন লোকের উপর যে অভিযোগ করবে তিনিই যদি বিচারক হয়ে বলেন, সেখানে কিরূপ ন্যায় বিচার হয় সকলে সেটা স্বপ্ননা করতে পারেন। ন্যায় বিচারের আশা করা সেখানে বাড়ুলতা মাত্র। স্বাধীন বিচার বিভাগ কিনা লোকের স্বাধীনতা অক্ষুণ্ণ থাকতে পারে না। আমাদের মন্ত্রিবলীর আমলে সেখানে পাঁচি আত্ম তাঁরা মৈত্র্যচারী শাসকবর্গের মত শাসন কার্য চালাচ্ছেন। তার প্রমাণ হচ্ছে বর্গদার বিল এবং Waste Land Acquisition Bills ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে যে বিচার করবেন Collector, Executive Officersগণ। এই দুইটিকে civil courtএর আওতা থেকে বাইরে এনে রাখা হয়েছে। (A VOICE: বুঝ করে নিন—ভাল বুঝ হয় নাই।) Executiveদের উপর বিচারের ভার অর্পণ করলে বিচারের নামে প্রহসন হয়। Executive officersরা তাদের বাইরের অন্য কাজ নিয়ে ব্যস্ত থাকে, তাঁদের বিচার্য বিষয়ে সময় সময়ও মন দিতে পারেন না এবং সেই বিচারক দিয়ে খাঁটি বিচারও হয় না। বিচারের সময় তাদের executive mentality প্রকট হয়ে ওঠে। গেনা যায়—Executive Officersদের ওপর বিচারের ভার দিলে বিচার খুব তড়াতাড়ি হবে। কিন্তু সেখা যায় pending caseএর number সেখানে খুব বেশী। কিন্তু বিচার সেখানে কোন কিছুই হয় না।

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. NACENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Sir, as regards the cut motion about speedy disposal of cases, I may tell the House that speedy disposal of cases is always before the mind of the Government and Government are taking all possible steps in this direction.

As regards the introduction of vernacular as court language, I would like to tell the House that we are on the threshold of a great constitutional change and this question may come up after the impending change.

As regards the delay in disposal of criminal cases, this is already engaging the attention of the Government, and I can assure the House that circular letters are being issued to the trying magistrates for speedy disposal of criminal cases. Moreover a number of lawyer-magistrates are going to be appointed shortly for speedy disposal of criminal cases, and I hope all arrear cases will be cleared off within a short time. (Loud noise from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister speak up? We cannot hear him.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this matter, I think, mutual co-operation is necessary and the attention of the Opposition is drawn to the fact that it is due to their noise that they cannot hear the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. NAGENDRA NARAYAN ROY: As regards delay in the disposal of civil suits, this has never been brought to the notice of the Government and when it is brought to the notice of Government, the High Court will take necessary steps for the disposal of cases.

As regards revision of pay of Government servants, the matter is before the Pay Commission and the report has not yet been received. It may be expected that some sort of relief may be made available to all classes of Government servants.

As regards the question of separation of Executive from the Judiciary, this matter is engaging the attention of the Government and my colleague the Hon'ble Finance Minister has already given the point of view of the Government before this House.

As regards the allegation of Mr. Datta that High Court Judges are appointed on political considerations, this allegation has no basis and it is false.

Sir, with these words I oppose all the cut motions that have been moved.

The motion of Mr. Provash Chandra Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Brojomadhab Das that the demand of Rs. 1,06,21,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan Roy that a sum of Rs. 1,06,21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-35 p.m. till 4-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 13th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 13th March, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 199 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Starred Question No. 145 was called but no one on behalf of the Government was present to answer it.)

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the practice of the Hon'ble Ministers not to attend their functions in the Assembly now-a-days. It constitutes a discourtesy to the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: This question will be taken up today.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: But will you please give directions to the Ministers concerned to be present when their questions come up, because we come here for business? This is not the only occasion and that is why I am bringing this matter to your notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: This question will be taken up today. Next question.

Damages to the Faridpur State Orphanage by storm.

*147. **Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that storm blew down some huts in the Faridpur State Orphanage and some orphans died, burnt to ashes;
- (b) if so, when did the tragedy take place;
- (c) how many orphans died and under what circumstances;
- (d) how many huts were in the orphanage;
- (e) how many of them were blown down;
- (f) whether the posts of the huts were made of wood or of bamboo;
- (g) whether there was any report made before by anybody that the posts were due to be replaced by new ones and that repairs of the huts also were due; when was such report made; by whom and to whom;
- (h) what, if any, was the order passed on such report;
- (i) what actions further were taken on the report and by whom and when;
- (j) whether the posts were replaced by new ones before the tragedy had actually occurred;
- (k) who was the officer responsible; and
- (l) if no report was made, who was the officer responsible to make the report?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzam-uddin Hossain): (a) Yes, there was a cyclone. Out of 269 orphans living there, one died.

(b) On 31st March, 1946, just at dusk.

(c) Only one died by fall of a shed which caught fire. The cause of fire could not be ascertained. It might have spread from the adjoining kitchen. The police submitted a final report on this point after enquiry.

(d) There were 28 huts in all in the orphanage.

(e) Of them 24 were blown down.

(f) The posts were made of bamboo.

(g) There was no report by anybody that the posts were due to be replaced by new ones. But the question of repairs of the dormitories in general was discussed in the meeting of the sub-committee, dated the 3rd December, 1945, as per agenda submitted by the Superintendent.

(h) After the meeting of the sub-committee the District Magistrate invited tenders for repair of the sheds, construction of borehole latrines and compound fencing.

(i) The tenders were accepted. As there were as many as 40 or 50 different items of work the tenders were being sorted out and the local Works and Buildings Department was also consulted.

(j) The posts were not replaced before the cyclone.

(k) None could be held responsible. The officers dealing with the matter could not guess that the posts were to be replaced forthwith. After original construction, repair works were being done occasionally. Even in October and November, 1945, some repairs were made to the dormitories. Nor could it be anticipated that there would be a cyclone on 30th March, 1946. The disaster was due to an unforeseen natural calamity. The cyclone blew not only the sheds of the orphanage but also some of the strongly built police barracks of the town and also caused havoc to adjoining villages and different parts of the subdivision.

(l) Generally, the Superintendent is to report about such work. The question of repairs was however discussed in the meeting of the sub-committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Next question.

(Starred question No. 148 was called.)

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many police officers—

Mr. SPEAKER: I have called the next question.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: On a point of privilege Sir. We get hardly any time to put our supplementary questions. As soon as the Hon'ble Minister read out the answer, one of our honourable members stood up for putting supplementary questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not as soon as—not before I called the next question.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: He stood up and then you called the next question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I called the next question first so far as my memory goes, then the honourable member stood up.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: We have not been given sufficient time to put supplementary question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chaudhury, to which question you want to put supplementaries?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Starred question No. 147.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already called 148.

Irregular payment of salary of primary school teachers under Murshidabad District School Board.

***148. Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact—

- (i) that the teachers of the primary schools under the Primary School Board, Murshidabad, are getting their pay irregularly at an interval of 3 or 4 months;
- (ii) that in these days of high prices these low paid teachers are to face untold miseries and hardships for not getting their pay timely; and
- (iii) that the authorities have turned a deaf ear to the series of memorials and representations to the Board for paying them salaries only in due time?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of enquiring into the matter and take immediate steps to remove the difficulties of these primary teachers?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzam-uddin Hosain): (a)(i) Statements received from the District Inspector of Schools indicate that payment is made by postal money orders regularly every month. There may sometimes be postal delays due to reasons not in the control of the Education Department.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) No.

(b) Directions will be given for taking remedial measures if any be necessary.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his department has got any complaint from the teachers?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Not specifically from the teachers, but general complaints have been received about the irregularity of payment due to postal irregularities.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In view of the statement just now made by the Hon'ble Minister will he be pleased to send directions to the officers concerned, so that these difficulties may be obviated?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The honourable member is referred to answer (b).

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In answer (b) it is stated that directions will be given for taking remedial measures if any be necessary. In view of the statement just now made by the Hon'ble Minister that the department has got certain complaints, it is evident that there have been certain difficulties. In view of that statement will he be pleased to issue directions to the officers concerned?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The answer already given covers this question also. Whenever any complaint is received regarding any particular School Board, directions are given to that particular School Board.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: In view of the fact that postal delay is a normal affair now-a-days will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of directing the department to send the money 15 days earlier?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That is not possible. There are some financial difficulties in the matter.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Arising out of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister will he be pleased to state whether it is a general grievance that the primary school teachers all over the Province do not get their salaries regularly?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The department is not prepared to accept it as a general grievance, but there have been some complaints from some districts.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the primary school teachers have given notice to the Government to go on strike on this issue also?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I am not aware of that.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the conditions of the primary school teachers are really very serious in view of the fact that their pay is only Rs. 15 and that also they do not get regularly?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That question does not arise exactly in connection with this, but as regards pay of the teachers that is a different question which is under the consideration of the department now. As regards irregularity of payment that question has been sufficiently answered before.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is no such circular from the department to the Secretary of the District School Board that the primary school teachers are to be paid every month regularly?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That goes without saying. It is understood that everybody should be paid every month.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: I want to know whether there has been any such circular issued?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No specific circular has been issued.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to take the opinion of the District Magistrate of Birbhum regarding the delay in the payment of the salary of primary school teachers there?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. The question relates to Murshidabad.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in communication with the Post-Master-General with regard to this delay?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to the answer just given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether this particular item forms one of the many grievances that have been put forward by primary school teachers for going on strike?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes, it will be enquired into.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that many school teachers have to literally starve with their families for this sort of delay in payment?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No, I am not aware of that.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who pays this money order fee? Is it deducted from the salary of the teacher?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: It is generally paid by the School Board.

Staff of the Ashanullah School of Engineering, Dacca.

***149. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(i) the number of teachers and clerks serving in Ashanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, since 1940; and

(ii) how many of them are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes?

(b) Whether there is any Scheduled Caste serving in the teaching and clerical staff?

(c) If not, for how long?

(d) Whether the Government consider it desirable to appoint Scheduled Caste teacher and clerks at an early date?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzam-uddin Hosain): (a)(i) Teacher 7, Clerk 7—Total 14.

(ii) (1) Eleven.

(2) Three.

(3) Nil.

(b) No.

(c) For a good many years.

(d) Yes, provided that qualified candidates are available.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Scheduled Castes candidates have been appointed as clerks in the Ashanullah School of Engineering?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The answer is there, "provided qualified candidates are available". No suitable candidates were perhaps available.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether applications from Scheduled Castes candidates were invited for the posts?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Communal ratio is observed in the matter of appointments but not in the case of transfer. In these Government institutions most of the officers are transferred from one school to another.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of students in the Ashanullah School of Engineering?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: It varies every year.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the qualification necessary for appointment to the clerical staff of the Ashanullah School of Engineering?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The standard qualification that has been laid down by the Education Department.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any Scheduled Castes candidates of required qualifications have never applied for such posts?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: That question does not arise in case of transfer. These officers are there not by appointment but by transfer.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if that also applies to the clerical staff who are transferred to that institution?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Oh, yes.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Scheduled Castes clerks are also transferred?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has been answered.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he wants to modify the qualifications in respect of Scheduled Castes candidates for such appointments?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: There is some concession in the case of Scheduled Castes candidates in the Recruitment Rules of the department, and no further modification or revision is considered necessary.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to transfer some of the Muslim clerks to some other institutions where there are no Muslims and appoint some Scheduled Castes candidates in this institution?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The question is not before the Government now.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if modification in the qualifications applies to Scheduled Castes candidates only or to any other community?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I would refer the honourable member to the general rules of recruitment. Every department has got rules of recruitment approved by Government, and these rules of recruitment provide for certain concessions in the case of Scheduled Castes candidates.

Appointments in the office of Special Officer, Electricity Development.

*150. **Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

- (a) all appointments made up till now in the office of the Special Officer, Electricity Development; and
- (b) their academic qualifications and experiences in the electrical line prior to their appointments as Assistant Engineers and Engineering Assistants.

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): A statement is placed on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 150.

- (a) One Special Officer.
- One Distribution Engineer.
- One Hydro-Electric Project Engineer.
- Five Assistant Engineers—Grade I.
- Five Assistant Engineers—Grade II.
- Three Engineering Assistants.

One Personal Assistant to Special Officer.

Three Draughtsmen.

One Stenographer.

Four Stenotypists.

Three Upper Division Clerks.

Five Lower Division Clerks.

Two Drivers.

One Duftari.

Three Durwans.

One Sweeper.

(b) Assistant Engineers, Grade I, are Electrical Engineering Graduates or Diploma-holders from a recognised institution and have had approximately five years' recognised service prior to joining the office.

Assistant Engineers, Grade II, are Electrical Engineering Graduates or Diploma-holders from a recognised institution and have had at least three years' recognised service prior to joining the office.

Engineering Assistants are Electrical Engineering Graduates.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the academic qualifications of the first three Engineers mentioned in the statement, namely, the Special Officer, the Distribution Engineer and the Hydro-Electric Project Engineer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Assistant Engineers in Grade I who are Diploma-holders and not Graduates?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Special Officer, Board of Revenue, Bengal.

***151. Mr. LUTFAR RAHMAN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the function, pay and allowances of the Special Officer attached to the Board of Revenue;
- (ii) how long the post has been created and on what terms;
- (iii) who is the present incumbent;
- (iv) what was his former post and pay;
- (v) whether the Divisional Commissioners were consulted about the necessity of the post;
- (vi) whether the post was advertised and the approval of the Public Service Commission was obtained about the personnel;
- (vii) whether there is another officer of the Board of Revenue known as Adviser;
- (viii) if so, when the post was created and for what period;
- (ix) what is his function and pay; and
- (x) whether there is any special office staff for this officer and the Special Officer?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of combining the two posts into one?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (a)(i) Initiation and co-ordination of collection drives in Court of Wards estates and *khasmahals* and also in respect of agricultural and land improvement loans.

He draws a pay of Rs.800 per mensem *plus* usual dearness allowance.

(ii) The post was created in the first instance for a period of six months on a pay of Rs.600 per mensem with effect from the 4th October, 1943.

(iii) Bai Sahib Dinesh Chandra Dutta.

(iv) Manager, Natore Raj Wards' Estate, on Rs.500 per mensem.

(v) Not at the original stage. The desirability of a permanent centralised organisation to initiate and organise collection drives in Court of Wards and *khasmahals* was however placed before the Conference of Commissioners held in October, 1945.

(vi) No.

(vii) Yes.

(viii) The post was created in September, 1940, for a period of two years in the first instance.

(ix) Effecting a closer control in the administration of Court of Wards Estates and expressing independent views in matters relating to the management of Wards Estates referred to him.

(x) Yes. The Adviser has a stenographer and two orderlies while the Special Officer has two clerks, a stenographer, two orderlies and an office peon.

(b) No. The Adviser has been appointed also as Special Officer for the Acquisition and Reclamation of Waste Lands.

Maintenance of statistics of deaths due to starvation in Bengal and of relief works done.

***152. Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation, Credit and Relief Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Press reports of deaths due to starvation that have taken place in Bengal during the months of March, April, May and June, 1946;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to ascertain the correctness of the said reports; if so, with what results;

(c) if any arrangement has been made for recording specifically, in vital statistics, or elsewhere, (i) deaths due to actual starvation, and (ii) deaths due to diseases arising out of malnutrition; if not, why not;

(d) whether there exists any machinery for handling starvation cases when and where scarcity or famine condition prevails;

(e) whether any District Officer has made any such report about distress or famine condition as laid down in section 34 and sections 104-105 of the Bengal Famine Code; and

(f) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (i) the name or names of the districts or subdivisions with reference to which such reports have been made, (ii) the dates when such reports have been made, (iii) the nature of such reports, and (iv) the steps, if any, taken by the Government on the reports of the District Officers or on their own initiative to cope with famine conditions and provide for test and relief works and other forms of relief up to date?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdul Rahman): (a) and (d) Yes.

(b) Yes; in all cases the Press reports were found to be incorrect.

(c) Statistics in respect of deaths in Auxiliary General Hospitals are being maintained and steps are being taken to maintain such statistics of deaths throughout the Province, i.e., in Auxiliary General Hospitals and elsewhere.

(e) Reports about prevalence of distress were received.

(f) Two statements furnishing the information are laid on the Library Table.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state through what machinery enquiry was made about the reported deaths due to starvation?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: District Magistrates are referred to.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken to maintain such statistics of deaths throughout the province?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: The District Magistrates have been specially instructed to collect the figures.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he includes ordinary vital statistics in his reply "elsewhere" or does he mean deaths only in Auxiliary General Hospitals or in some such institutions due to starvation?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: "Elsewhere" includes statistics gathered through the Public Health Department.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have issued instructions to add a special column, in the form of vital statistics because there is no such column?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the statement which he has furnished in answer (f) and explain how does he reconcile these two statements, that reports about prevalence of distress were received—that means that no report about famine was received, and the report from Khulna, dated 29th March, 1946, explaining the extent of distress in the district as the necessity for continuing famine relief work?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: Unless Government declare famine they do not take it as famine.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government took any steps to ascertain from the newspapers which published incorrect news the sources of their information?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: Government did not take any such step.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain how is it then that the officers concerned reported that famine relief work, as distinct from test relief work, should be continued, when Government did not declare famine?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he received any report on the deaths due to starvation during the year 1946?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: No such report was received.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the library table regarding Birbhum, dated 24th March, 1945, explaining the state of distress in nine unions, and to give us a substance of the report that came from the District Officer?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: It is already there. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what kind of distress was prevailing in those nine unions?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: The report is already there. The honourable member is at liberty to deduce from it whatever he likes. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where is the report?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: In the statement.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: There is no report. I want to draw the attention of Mr. Speaker that there is no report.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, there is an extract from the report.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to know the extent of distress.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot expect that in such a lengthy statement all the reports should be placed, unless a particular member is interested in a particular report.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am asking only about some details of the report, dated 24th March, 1945, from Birbhum, viz., what was the nature of the distress and what kind of distress prevailed in those nine unions?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: The information is already in the statement. I have nothing to add.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Does the Hon'ble Minister understand the term "distress"—

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you cannot put that question. It is a simple English word and quite intelligible.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It may be easy English but the subject-matter is not so.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a reflection on the intelligence of the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has received in any of the reports referred to in the statement any report about any case of starvation or severe want?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: The report is already there. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he received any report about severe want?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: The report is already there.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that these vital statistics are collected by Sanitary Inspectors of the Public Health Department?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Sanitary Inspectors collect these informations by attending thanas?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: I do not know.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing orders so that these Sanitary Inspectors can procure information from their own offices?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: That does not arise.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that there were cases of starvation and death outside the Auxiliary General Hospital?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: My answer is already there.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps were taken on the report, which I referred to just now, I mean the report from the Birbhum District Officer, dated 24th March, 1945?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say particularly what relief was rushed in respect of Birbhum district, but certainly cheap doles, cheap grains, loans, gratuitous relief, etc., were rushed there.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the library table, regarding Bankura district—I am referring to report, dated 8th May, 1946, and say what steps were taken by Government on that report?

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: For details I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I will refer you to question (f); the question is sufficiently clear; you cannot say that there was no notice. There was sufficient notice.

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: For details I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, it is meaningless if he asks for notice—

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister says that he has answered in general terms.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Item (iv) in question (f), "the steps, if any, taken by the Government on the reports of the District Officers . . ." is very very definite. If after this he wants notice for his reply he will never reply to the question. They are drawing heavy sums from the public exchequer and they are proving themselves by this sort of answer to be worthless and unfit to occupy those positions. There is no mention made of the steps taken by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that respect I think, the answer is incomplete. It does not throw any light as to what action Government took on the reports of the District Officers asked for in the last portion of question (f).

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that relief was rushed to the place.

Mr. SPEAKER: But there is no mention in the printed answer.

Mr. MASIUDDIN AHMED: I have answered that in answer to the supplementary question.

Mr. SPEAKER: In question (f)(iv) it has been clearly stated "the steps, if any, taken by the Government on the reports of the District Officers or on their own initiative to cope with famine conditions and provide for test and relief works and other forms of relief up to date".

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: In reply to supplementary question—

Mr. SPEAKER: This does not relate to supplementary questions. This is a part of the main question an answer to which ought to have found a place in the printed reply.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: If there has been any defect it has been rectified in answer to a supplementary question.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are so many districts mentioned, so many reports mentioned, but nothing has been said as to what steps Government have taken with regard to the reports, which were asked for in this question specifically. The answer is incomplete. There is no doubt about it.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I then suggest that the question be held over and come up again?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I submit, Sir, that the question cannot be held over.

Mr. SPEAKER: What reply the Hon'ble Minister is giving with regard to sub-item (iv) of clause (f)?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: He has replied in answer to a supplementary question that relief of various kinds has been rushed in.

Mr. SPEAKER: Where? That question was put with regard to one district and with regard to the report of a particular day, but this question refers to all the reports.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: The question may be held over.

Mr. SPEAKER: Holding over the question will not solve the problem, because they will not come up with another reply.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I then suggest that you create a precedent by exercising your residual power under rule 116 and direct Government to come up again with a fresh and correct reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am only pointing out that the answer is not complete. It is for Government to decide.

Forms of contracts.

*145. **Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

- (a) from what date the system of taking Earnest Money at the rate of 10 per cent. and Security Deposit of 15 per cent. was introduced and why;
- (b) what was the system in vogue beforehand and what was the form in use then;
- (c) how long the system at (b) continued and what was the necessity of abandoning the same;
- (d) what is the total value of the work done in the Works and Buildings Department since the introduction of the system of Earnest Money and Security Deposit and what is the percentage in value of the work done by the Muslim and non-Muslim contractors;

- (e) if the percentage in value of the work done by Muslim contractors as in (d) above is abnormally low, what is the reason for the same and what action Government propose to take to remedy the same;
- (f) whether he is aware of the hardship that is being experienced by the contractors in general and Muslim contractors in particular due to the introduction of the system of Earnest Money and Security Deposit; and
- (g) whether the Government are prepared to abolish the system and reintroduce the former one as embodied in form No. K2 which was in vogue since the inception of the Public Works Department up to 31st March, 1945?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarkanath Barori): (a) to (c) The K2 form of contract for piece work was in vogue in this department before. This form made it possible for the contractors to stop work any time. As this caused a good deal of difficulty and as this was not a regular form of contract, the Public Accounts Committee commented on it for several years and insisted on the abolition of the form and the introduction of regular contract forms Nos. 8 and 12, which were used in the Central Public Works Department. These two regular forms which also provide for Earnest Money and Security Deposit were accordingly introduced with effect from 1st April, 1944.

(d) Total value of work done—Rs.3,74,88,251.

Percentage in value of work done by Muslim contractors—20·85.

Percentage in value of work done by non-Muslim contractors—79·15.

(e) and (f) The main reason for the low percentage in the value of work received by Muslim contractors is that the number of Muslim contractors in the top classes was small before. Lately a number of Muslim contractors have been enlisted in these classes but for want of experience as well as for want of financial capacity, they could not compete with the more experienced and financially strong contractors. Things are, however, improving and it is expected that soon the Muslim contractors will be able to obtain larger shares of the works. It may be mentioned that in the Chittagong Division where there are experienced Muslim contractors, they secured 65 per cent. of the total value of works done in the Division.

The rules about the Earnest Money and Security Deposit have been modified lately and they have been largely reduced.

(g) No, for reasons explained above.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the exact nature of the difficulties mentioned in reply (a) to (c)? It says "a good deal of difficulty". I want to know the exact nature of the difficulties. Is it defalcations or non-compliance with rules or what?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The contractors could not finish their work as they were desired to do.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what qualifications, if any, are necessary for enlistment of contractors in top classes?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Contractors of top classes are to satisfy the qualifications necessary after completing certain important works.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of contractors in Nos. 1, 2 and 3 classes and how many of them are Muslims?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister give a instance where a top class Muslim contractor failed to execute the work for want of experience and for financial difficulty?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I want notice.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state the number of scheduled caste contractors?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I cannot tell you off-hand.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state after completion of how many works a contractor is enlisted in the top class?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The final decision rests with the Chief Engineer, and as recommended by the Chief Engineer they are classed under first class.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In connection with reply (a) to (c) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many contractors taking advantage of form No. K2 have abandoned their work since 1930 up to the time when form No. 12 was introduced?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I may inform the honourable member that I cannot answer that off-hand.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state within what time the shortage in the number of Muslim contractors as compared to non-Muslim contractors will be made up?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Very shortly.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state the grounds for his presumption that things in regard to Muslim contractors are improving?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Yes. (Laughter.)

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: What is 'yes'?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you repeat your question?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state the grounds for his presumption that things in regard to Muslim contractors are improving?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I cannot say off-hand. I can simply say that they are gaining experience.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (c) and (f), will the Hon'ble Minister give us some idea about the extent of reduction of earnest money and security deposit?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: For this I want notice.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that due to deliberate callousness and intentional communalism on the part of Executive Engineers injustice is being done to Muslim contractors and Muslim contractors are not promoted even?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: No such complaint has been received by the department.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state, in reference to his answer that experience and finance are necessary for enlistment as top class contractors, as to whether he meant by his

previous reply that they were gaining both in experience and finance? The Hon'ble Minister said that they were gaining in experience, but both experience and finance are necessary. Are they gaining both?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Certainly; they have accumulated wealth. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.)

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that his predecessor gave some definite assurance during the last budget speech that he would do away with earnest money and retain security deposit?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Government will look into it.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to recollect that I brought several times to his notice about the desirability of promoting the Muslim contractors to which Government have paid a deaf ear?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: It will receive the consideration of Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in reference to answer (e) and (f) what modifications have been introduced into the rules about earnest money and security deposit?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The answer is already there.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of modifying the rules regarding earnest money and security deposit?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: I have already answered that question.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the contractors are Brahmmins,—Chatterjees, Mukherjees, etc.,—how many are Sahas, how many Biswases, and so on and so forth?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Shifting of subdivisional headquarters of Kurigram, Rangpur, to another site due to erosion of the river Dharala.

***146. Mr. BANKU BEHARI MONDAL:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department aware—

- (i) that about 6 years ago about 50 acres of land were acquired by the Government at Kurigram at a distance of about 3 miles from the present subdivisional town of Kurigram in the district of Rangpur for the purpose of shifting the court buildings and the other Government offices of the Kurigram subdivisional town in view of the fact that a portion of the said town was being eroded by the river Dharala;
- (ii) that the acquisition of the land was made in consultation with the Irrigation and Public Health Departments of the Government; and
- (iii) that the erosion of the said river Dharala has ceased owing to the protection work of the bank of the river Dharala undertaken by the Government?

(b) Do the Government contemplate construction of the court and other buildings in the acquired site and, if so, when is the construction work likely to commence?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Dwarakanath Barori): (a) (i) and (ii) Yes.

(iii) No. On the other hand, the Irrigation Engineers consider further erosion likely.

(b) No, for the reasons stated in (iii).

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of the Government to construct the court buildings on the original site?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Government has not yet decided that question.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government has decided that the building will not be constructed on the acquired site?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: It will not be constructed on the acquired site, but the contemplation of Government is that it will be constructed at Lalmonirhat.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Has the notice of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the expressions of expert opinion that appeared in the "Commerce" and "Modern Review" that the erosion of the river Dharala can easily be stopped?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: That is not the opinion of our experts.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in reference to answer (a)—"Yes", if the land acquired was acquired without the advice of the Irrigation Engineers, and if so, which department was responsible for such acquisition of land?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: On a point of order, Sir. So many questions have been put together that it is not possible to answer them.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no point of order. The member has only referred to a question and its answer and then put only one supplementary question.

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The Land Acquisition Department.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the policy of the Government to acquire such lands without consulting the Irrigation Department as a result of which new lands have to be acquired subsequently as a protection against erosion?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Circumstances have changed since then.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Land Acquisition Department could not foresee the change that could possibly have taken place within six years?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: It was not possible at the time.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was possible for the Irrigation Engineers to make a reasonable forecast?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: At that time it was not their business. (Loud laughter from the Congress Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: He has first said that the Land Acquisition Department was responsible, and then he has said that it could not foresee the possibility of erosion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will consider the desirability of consulting the Irrigation Engineers henceforth before any such acquisition is made?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Government will consider that point.

Mr. PANIRUDDIN AHMED: With reference to the answer he has just given about the shifting of the subdivision, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government has already decided to shift the subdivision?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: No, it has not yet been decided.

Mr. PANIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Government consider the desirability of taking into account the fact that many people have to depend for their livelihood upon this town and that they will be put to a lot of hardship if the subdivisional headquarters is shifted?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: A section of people will be put to trouble.

Mr. NAZIR HOSSAIN KHANDAKAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that on the understanding given by Government to shift the headquarters to a place three miles off, many people have already purchased lands and built their houses there?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Government did not give any understanding to anybody.

Mr. NAZIR HOSSAIN KHANDAKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, when the Government desires to shift the town from Kurigram to Lalmonirhat, Government will consider the desirability of compensating those persons who have purchased lands and built houses on the previous site selected by Government?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Government is not under any such obligation.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be so pleased as to ascertain the opinion of the Irrigation Engineers again that there would be no chance of erosion in Lalmonirhat?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Mr. PANIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the intention of Government to shift the headquarters of the subdivision to Lalmonirhat?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Yes.

Mr. PANIRUDDIN AHMED: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the people of Kurigram will be put to much difficulty if the subdivisional headquarters is shifted to Lalmonirhat?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: Yes. (Mr. Paniruddin Ahmed remained standing when the Parliamentary Secretary was giving the answer.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The honourable member should resume his seat as soon as he finishes putting his supplementary question.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of privilege, Sir. With regard to the answer given to starred question No. 151 as soon as the Hon'ble Mr. Fasilur Rahman's answer was read out, without giving us any breathing time you recommended for shifting to the next question. My submission is that we have a large number of questions to ask but the practice

here is to hand over the printed questions when we enter the House. Even we are not given the questions one day before so that we can have a chance to go through them. In the circumstances it is not possible to arm ourselves previously with the intention or rather with the possibility of putting supplementary questions. I submit that after a printed answer has been read out at least one minute's time should be given for putting supplementary questions. I would request you to hold over this question for the purpose of asking supplementary questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will get many more questions of a similar nature when you will have opportunity of putting supplementary questions. Moreover I have found that there is a tendency to repeat the same supplementary questions over again.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: May I expect that the questions should be circulated one day earlier?

Mr. SPEAKER: That will be retarding work. That is not possible because under the rules questions have got to be placed on the table half an hour before the sitting. Unless you change that rule, I cannot help you.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: But it is found almost every day that questions are not placed half an hour before the sitting because the Upp House almost—

Mr. SPEAKER: This was the case only today—not every day.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: No, on many days it happened like this.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the House was available half an hour before the Assembly actually sat.
Questions over.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council.

Secretary then read the following message received from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

That the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 13 March, 1947, agreed to the Bengal Ordinances Temporary Enactment Bill, 1947, without any amendments.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

10—Forest.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.62,83,000 be granted for expenditure under head "10—Forest" during the year 1947-48.

The underlying aims of the Indian Forest Department since its inception in 1865 were specifically defined to be, first and foremost, the preservation of the climatic and physical conditions of the country, and secondly the preservation of the minimum amount of forest necessary for the well-being of the community. These principles defined half a century back still remain the objective of the Forest Department in the province. All honourable members are aware, Bengal is particularly deficient in forest and out of 27 districts only 7 have properly managed forests. In Europe the percentage of the total land area maintained under forest is 26 per cent. In Bengal it is only 9 per cent. We have therefore considerable leeway to make up and in doing so have to balance the claims on the existing land area available in the province, of agriculture on one side and forestry on the other.

Our immediate concern in Bengal is—(a) to repair the damage done during the war years to our existing Government forests by heavy advance felling of timber for defence purposes. We have a scheme for planting up of areas that have fallen into arrears, revision of the working plans which is overdue and proper development of the plantations to which necessary attention could not be given in the past. The estimated cost on all these counts during 1947-48 is Rs. 5,31,000.

(b) To save the private forests from destruction, the Bengal Private Forest Act, 1945, was enacted as a Governor's Act embodying the recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1938 to examine the progressive denudation of forests in West Bengal and consequent soil erosion on an alarming scale. A new Division known as the West Bengal Forest Division has been created to give effect to the scheme of afforestation of private waste lands and conservation of private forests. One main difficulty in regard to afforestation is the acquisition of waste lands for which under the present law a high price is to be paid. As soon as new powers are taken by Government to acquire waste lands at economic rates work on the scheme will expand. During 1947-48 a provision of Rs.2,22,000 has been made for the purpose.

(c) To arrest soil erosion and to afforest waste lands. An experiment has already been instituted in Midnapore where an area of the bombing range has been taken over from the Military for the establishment of necessary nurseries. A new Forest Circle in charge of a Conservator will be created from the beginning of 1947-48 at an estimated cost of about Rs.9,68,000 for proper supervision of the work.

There is also a scheme for afforestation in the district of Nadia. 25 acres of land have already been acquired and brought under plantation and nursery and another 197½ acres are under acquisition.

(d) Serious damage was caused to forest roads by heavy traffic for the purpose of extraction of timber for war purposes and little attention could be paid to their repair during the war years. Similarly buildings, water-supply and sanitary conveniences had to be neglected. All these will have to be restored if forests are to be properly maintained and exploited. A sum of Rs.10,72,000 has been provided in the budget for this purpose.

Sir, as I have already stated, the main functions of the Forest Department are to conserve forests for the welfare of the province and future generations. The Department has of necessity to maintain a highly technical and efficient staff for the purpose. Further, construction and maintenance of roads, buildings, etc., in forest areas removed from inhabited localities are necessarily expensive propositions. The problem of forest management therefore presents peculiar features which are not met with in management of an ordinary business. The Forest Department should not therefore be judged primarily as a revenue producing department although in the past this Department has earned a substantial income. The average for the years 1933-34 to 1937-38 was close on Rs.3,50,000. During the war years the income went up because of excessive exploitation, the peak being reached in 1944-45 during which year the income was Rs.54,96,000. The income during the current year is expected to be Rs.37,40,000, and the estimated income during 1947-48 is Rs.36,40,000. I can claim therefore that the forests of the province are being managed well and efficiently.

I now beg to move that the demand be voted by the House.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: I beg to move that the demand of Rs.62,83,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about general policy.

(The house was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cu motion moved by my friend Mr. Sukumar Dutt. Government has prove a complete failure in carrying out a good policy so far as forests are concerned. Bengal is mainly the creation of so many rivers viz., the Ganges the Brahmaputra, Tista, Mahananda, Damodar, Rupnarayan and scores c other rivers. And these rivers are mainly responsible for the well-bein of our people. So long as these rivers and their numerous branches an tributaries were healthy and active, Bengal was the richest Province. Bu today floods and famines are our constant companions. The soil ha deteriorated. The rivers are dead and dying. What have we done tha we have received these valuable assets and along with it our own fate? Th old people who are still alive very often say that the lives of the people c Bengal were not such as are to be seen today. They were happy an prosperous. And some portions of land were a pleasing sight to the ey with lively beautiful green foliage covering the land. But what do w find today? The land has now become bare and it has become an eye-sor to any passer-by. The climate has become hotter and drier than it wa before. The experience all over the world and the results of scientifi research show and affirm that forests are the main causes of the abov deteriorations. We earnestly need forests first to protect the water-shed and head-water of streams, viz., the catchment areas and secondly to aid t the uniformity and continuity of the flow, thirdly to control flood and reduc soil erosion and desiccation. These are of vital importance and are neces sary for influencing and modifying climates of the country and for th protection of a nation's health, wealth and supply of its food. Next t food in importance for the sustenance of a nation is the fodder for its cattl and facilities for grazing lands for the health of the cattle which need i amply provided with by forests. Fourthly timber and such other fore: produce are necessary for our furniture, for our railways, for our ship building and for so many other purposes. And these are the things whic bring about industrialisation and which in its turn brings about civilisation Ply-wood, packing timber and paper pulp are essential requisites for th industrialisation of a country. And lastly naturalists are of opinion th objects, animate or otherwise, exist for mutual benefit in this world White-cranes, crocodiles, lizards (Go-shaps) are familiar objects in Benga but very few know their functions in nature's order. The crane destroy countless insect pests; lizards and crocodiles are nature's scavengers. Preservation of wild lives has its proper place in national economy. Th explains the creation of national parks and protection of wild lives in th civilised world. And the existence of forest goes a good deal towards th protection.

Now, Sir, when we see that such is the importance of forest in ou national life, how far the present Government is going to tackle this subjec We find that out of a total of 78,708 square miles of Bengal about 12,29 square miles are under tree-cover and out of which only 7,000 square mile are under systematic management. This is distributed in 8 district: namely, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, 24-Parganas, Khulna, Dacca, Mymensingh Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts. The remaining 19 districts form ing the major portion of Bengal have no forests worth the name. Let m take and compare Bengal with other foreign countries so far as th percentage of area under forests is covered. We find that in Finland th percentage of area under forest is 74, Sweden 55, Austria 38, Russia 4 Czechoslovakia 34, German Reich 24, Rumania 24, Poland 23, Switzerland 23, Portugal 22, Norway 21, Italy 20, France 19, Greece 19, Belgium 18 Bengal 16, Spain 14, Hungary 13, Denmark 9, Great Britain 6. We expo: only 88 cubic tons and import 59-667 cubic tons of timber. This is th report available to us of the year 1938-39.

Now, Sir, whether our forests in Bengal do satisfy our needs? Thi is a very urgent question. The answer is an emphatic answer that they d

not. The lot of the poor cultivators who form more than 90 per cent. of our population has considerably suffered. The vital problem of protection of their lands, the maintenance of the condition of the soil, the provisions of timber, fire wood and fodder have not met with any degree of satisfaction. We have no national parks. A thorough knowledge of our resources even at this belated hour is imperative. Let us then take stock and recast our future plan so that in the earliest possible time and opportunity we can be self-sufficient.

Broadly speaking it may be said that the forest requirements of a population is roughly speaking 25 per cent. of the total area of the country. Such a generalisation is of course approximate and depends entirely on geographical position of the country and the production capacity of the soil and such other factors. Agriculture, forests, irrigation, road and housing are all part and parcel of the land utilisation machinery of a nation which should plan for what purpose how much land should be given out. For protection purpose alone I have shown that the existing forests do not come up to the requirement, and as a whole they are insufficient and their distribution is very unsatisfactory. A very larger area shall have to be kept under tree-cover. Of course with this there must be ample grazing ground and supply of fodder. So, Sir, I suggest that the Government should give their attention to the following objectives and they are as follows:—

- (1) All forests must be managed by the scientifically trained personnel irrespective of the fact whether they belong to Government or to private bodies.
- (2) Hill tops and sloping lands are to be taken up for plantation.
- (3) Catchment areas of all rivers so far as they lie within the Province must be afforested.
- (4) Disafforestation is the main cause of our miseries and hence with the help of other Provincial Governments and Central Government the catchment basis must be maintained under tree-cover.
- (5) Cow-dung must not be used for fuel purpose. It should be left to be used as manure and this can be done if firewood be supplied to villagers.

Road sides and other vacant places must be planted with mangoe trees. These trees are good for timber and also for packing purposes. It is also a good fire wood, and the fruits are always in all stages a good human food. Expansion of bamboo-plantation should be taken up. It is good both for paper-pulp and for poor man's housing. There must be establishment of grazing ground and extension of fodder crop. (At this stage the member reached his time limit but was allowed to conclude his speech in a minute.) Prevention of flood and soil erosion are long-term affairs and highly technical in nature and must be taken in that light. Establishment of national parks should be taken up. These objectives comprise of two parts, one within the scientifically managed forest areas of Government and the other outside the Forest Department of the Government. (At this stage the member having reached the extra-time-limit, had to resume his seat.)

MR. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.62,83,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about general policy.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.62,83,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about afforestation in the different districts of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bengal has a great potential source of wealth in her magnificent forest, and if best care and attention be given for the development and maintenance of forest it will add to the finance of Bengal and the chronic deficit budget will get a partial relief.

Sir, the part played by forest can hardly be exaggerated. Amongst the greatest needs are fire-wood to replace the manure, small timbers for house, and wood for implements as well as grazing and fodder for the cattle. It has been recognised that forestry has an important vocation as the handmaid of agriculture. Apart from these direct benefits, forest exerts a great indirect influence on the climate and rainfall. They produce the effect of equalising the temperature and by keeping the atmosphere moist they induce the fall of rains. By their roots they absorb and retain a great quantity of moisture in land. They hold together the fertile surface soil and by checking erosion they prevent good soil from being washed off. They also directly increase the fertility of land. They are a valuable asset in time of famine and food scarcity. So the Government should not only preserve the existing forests but also take keen interest for the afforestation in the waste lands of the different districts of Bengal. It is essential that proper attention should be devoted to the best maintenance, growth and utilisation of forests in the province. Reckless destruction of forests should at once be checked. In the last war there was a scarcity of valuable wood such as *shal*, *sagpon*, etc., in Bengal and consequently the cultivators and fishermen faced endless difficulties in carrying out their own business for want of country-made boats, specially in the river and flooded districts of Bengal.

For the best interest of the public the Government should consider and give effect to the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission for the better utilisation of the forests. Measures should also be taken that minor forests, village wood lands and fuel plantations be encouraged throughout the province.

Sir, it is a matter of regret that the Government has failed to check bribery and corruption in Forest Department. It cannot be denied that private sales of forest resources are of daily occurrence. Thus reckless destruction of forest is going on and the officers of the department are getting their wealth multiplied year to year to a heavy loss to the State. This should be checked, and the forest under the private holdings should be nationalised without delay.

Sir, I like to draw your attention to the fact that the Government has neglected the demand of the Scheduled Castes of Bengal and has failed to observe communal ratio in appointing employees in Forest Department. Proper representations of the Scheduled Castes are not being made in the Forest Department. And I strongly condemn this policy of the Government and urge upon the Government to see that the Scheduled Castes ratio is strictly observed in the matter of appointment not only in this department but in other departments also.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: মিঃ স্পীকার স্যার, বাংলার বে বনসম্পদ তা নিয়ে বে কোন সেনের লোক গৌরব করতে পারে। শাল, টাঁপা, টিক, শিত, তুলু, পারুল ও গর্জনের মত শক্ত কাঠ (hard wood) এবং সিহুল, পিটালি, কদম ও ছাতিনের মত মোলায়েম কাঠ (soft wood) বাংলার বিভিন্ন বন থেকে সরবরাহ হয়। চন্দনের মত মূল্যবান কাঠের চাষও বাংলার লভ্য।

এক কথায় বাংলার মাটি নানাপ্রকার গাছের চাষের উপযোগী। সরকারী উদ্যোগের ফলে বাংলা বিপুল বনসম্পদ থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে। অন্যান্য বিভাগ লব্ধ তবু সংবাদপত্রে, বক্তৃতাথেকে আন্দোচনা হয়—আলোচন হয়। কিন্তু বন বিভাগের দিকে কারুর দৃষ্টি নেই। বাংলার বনে কর্তৃপক্ষ সামান্য পরিমাণ শাল ও জাকুলের চাষ করেন। soft wood এর plantation আজ বুনে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছে। টাঁপা, টিক, শিতরার মত শালী কাঠের দিকেও নজর নেই কারুর।

কুইনাইন বাংলার প্রচুর উৎপন্ন হতে পারত। এলিকে দৃষ্টি দেননি কর্তৃপক্ষ যদিও বাংলা উজাড় হচ্ছে ম্যানেরিয়ায়—বংশের পর বংশের স্বাভাবিক তুলার চাষ করাও বাংলার বনে কিছু কঠিন কাজ নয়। বাংলার বনে প্রচুর ডেল ও কবলা রয়েছে বলে বিশেষজ্ঞদের ধারণা। লজিনিং ভেলার বাংগা কোর্টের নিকট পাহাড় কেটে কবলা বাগ করা হচ্ছে ৪ বছর ধরে। ৮০ বছর আগে এখানে কবলা পাতা গিয়েছিল। ছুকেউ এ নিয়ে

কেউ বাধা ধানানো সরকার বনে করেননি। সম্পত্তি জন করেক উদ্যোগী পুরুষের চেষ্টার ফলাফল হওয়া এখানে। এক্সপার্টরা বলেন—সাত থেকে নয় মিলিয়ন টন ফলাফল পাওয়া যাবে এখানে এবং কাজ করা দিলে ১০০ বছর। অভিনব উপায়ে বেশি চাড়াই করা তোলা হয় এখানে।

উপযুক্ত তথ্যের কারণে বনে হয় অন্যান্য বহু হাত আধিকার হতে পারত বাজনার বনে। ভূমির সীমার পেন্সিওনারিরা হয়েছিল একধা আত কেউ আর অধীকার করবেন না। কিন্তু এই বিপুল সম্পদ আহরণ ব্যবহার আগ্রহ কোথায় কর্তৃপক্ষের?

বাজনার বন বিভাগ থেকে যে বাজার আশায় হয় তাতে কেউ উৎসাহিত হবেন না। কিন্তু আরও মূলধন, উৎসাহ ও মস্তিষ্ক ব্যয় করলে প্রচুর বাজার আশায় হতে পারে এই বিভাগ থেকে।

প্রথমত: যে শাখা কাঠ বিক্রয় হয় তার খুব কম অংশই পড়ে সরকারী হিসাবায়। কারণ বহু হাত ব্যবহার পর গভর্নমেন্ট পান নিজেব অংশ। এই middlemen ওলাকে উচ্চতর করণে পারলে সরকার সরকারী ভাগ সহজেই বেড়ে যেতে পারে।

বাজনার বনসম্পদ আহরণ (extraction) ব্যবহার সুযোগ এখনো সৃষ্টি করা হয়নি। বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ এখানে এখনো করা হয় না। এখনো চলছে এখানে প্রচুর গাছের ক্ষয়। প্রাতিগতিহাসিক যুগের পদ্ধতি কঠোর ফলশ্রুতি হতে পারে এই এটম বোমার যুগে।

ফরেস্ট বিভাগের কর্মচারীদের অসন্তোষের ফলেও বিভাগটিতে উন্নতির লক্ষণ দেখা যাচ্ছে না। বীরা সামান্য বেতন পাবেন তাঁরাই বলছেন এই বিভাগটিকে যেন সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে—শেত হস্তী পোষণেরই জন্যে। সদস্যগণ ভুলে যাবার হবেন: এই বিভাগে ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সনে যেখানে ২৫০০ নিম্নতর কর্মচারী পেয়েছেন ৫ লক্ষ টাকা, সেখানে ৪৪ জন উচ্চ পদস্থ কর্মচারী পেয়েছেন ৩ লক্ষ টাকা। এর চেয়ে অস্বাভাবিক অবস্থা আর কি হতে পারে।

সমগ্র ফরেস্ট বিভাগ দৃষ্টিতে ফরেস্ট বেকারদের কেন্দ্র করে। এদের অনেককেই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রাক্তন। তাঁদের বন বিভাগ সম্পর্কে বিশেষ ট্রেনিং নিয়েছেন। সভা সমাজ থেকে দূরে বাস্তু গণ্যের সংগ্রামে জীবন কাটিতে হয় এদের। পুত্র কন্যার শিক্ষার জন্য সন্তানের বাবদ রাখতে হয় আলাদা। এদের বোম্বাই, একাউন্টস, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং আইন কানুন জানতে হয় বহু কিছু। গাছ গাছড়া উৎপাদন ও পরিপোষণ করে এরা গাছ কাটার এবং বাল্কটিংএর দায়িত্বও এদের। বিক্রয়লব্ধ টাকা কড়িও থাকে এদের জিম্মাদারীতে। পুলিশের মত বন পাহারা দেন এবং দরকার হলে বিচারকের কাজও করতে হয় এদের। অর্থাৎ এদের টাইম স্কেল দেওয়া হয়নি এখানে। আগে যে প্রমোশনের সুযোগ ছিল বন্ধিত হয়েছেন তাঁরা তা থেকে। কাননও যদি বন্ধী হতে পারে; কনস্টেবল যদি আই. ডি. হতে পারে, কেরানী ডি. পি. আই হতে পারে, রেকর্ডার কেন হতে পারবেনা কনজারভেটর।

এদের দাবী: টাইম স্কেল দিতে হবে—সুযোগ দিতে হবে প্রমোশনের। ১৯৬৪ সনে বর্ধীকৃত কনজারভেটর যে প্রস্তাব হয়েছিল ফরেস্ট বিভাগে পুলিশ বিভাগের অনুরূপ বেতনের স্কেল করতে হবে—যেই নিতে হবে সেই নীতি।

অলভার সর্গুথ শ্রেত হস্তী কনজারভেটর স্ক্রুতে ছিল একজন, বৎসরের পর বৎসর এইসব পদ বাড়ান হচ্ছে। অবসরপ্রাপ্ত কনজারভেটর মি: মোডার (Mr. Modder) অবসর গ্রহণের পর অষ্ট্রেলিয়ায় ছিলেন বহুদিন। আত তাঁকে ১৭৫০ টাকা বি; এক স্কুলের ডায়েরীটার নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা হয়েছে। এই শ্রেতাঙ্গশ্রুতির কি কৈবর্ত্য হতে পারে।

বাজনার সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ জাতি মূলধন, বন বিভাগে তাদের ন্যায্য অধিকার মোটেই পাচ্ছে না। চীফ কনজারভেটর, কনজারভেটর মোট ১৪ জন অফিসারের মধ্যে ১ জন মাত্র মূলধন। এই বিভাগে অন্য চাকরীতেও এই একই ব্যবস্থা। এই অবিচারের প্রতিকার না হলে বিভাগটির সংস্কার সম্ভব নয়।

বন বিভাগকে স্বাভাবিক অবস্থায় আনতে হলে (১) উৎপাদন, (২) সংরক্ষণ এবং (৩) বিক্রয়—এই তিন বিভাগে ভাগ করতে হবে। আধুনিক বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতিতে নানা প্রকার বনসম্পদ উৎপাদ্য করার কাজে হাত দেওয়ার সরকার অবিলম্বে। সংরক্ষণ ও বিক্রয় ঠিকভাবে চলতে পারে না যে পর্যন্ত না বাজার অবস্থার উন্নতি হচ্ছে। বিক্রয় বিভাগটিরও সম্প্রসারণ প্রয়োজন। বৈজ্ঞানিক গবেষণাভাষা নূতন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করতে হবে ও সৃষ্টি করতে হবে নূতন নূতন। বনিভূমির সন্ধানহারও স্বত্ব করতে হবে অবিলম্বে। জায়জান সরকার গবেষণা ও অনুসন্ধান।

বিভাগীয় কর্মচারীদের (বালাসী থেকে উপর দিকে) দাবী বেনে নিয়ে তাদের কর্ম ক্ষয় বাড়িয়ে দিতে হবে। মোট কথা বন বিভাগকে চলে গেছে নব স্ট্রীর দিকে টেনে আনতে হবে। তবে এই বিভাগের কর্তৃপক্ষ যেভাবে গণতন্ত্রের চাবড়ায় আবৃত হয়ে আছেন তাতে এ সমালোচনা তাদের বর্ষণ করবে কিনা কে জানে।

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Sir, coming from a district which contains the major portion of the Sundarban forests, I would speak before you about our own stories of misery and our worries.

Sir, it has been many times said that there is corruption existing in this department. That there is corruption nobody can deny, but there are two methods of corruption—one is direct and another indirect. When I say direct method, what I mean to say is this that those who have got to remain within the Sundarban forests have to remain content with Rs.12 or Rs.16 or Rs.20 per month though they may have big families. They are deprived of all amenities of town life. They have got to take their rations often for a fortnight at a time. So, naturally these people will require additional money to meet their other requirements and to feed their dependants.

The indirect method is that in the existing Forest Rules and Forest Manuals incidences of corruption are there and so, instead of helping to detect corruption and bribery which exist, these rules only help to encourage them. One permit is given to one cutter and he is required to complete his cutting within a particular time, but he is not given the particular plot where he is to cut. The time expires and with the expiry of time, he has to undergo a penalty of Rs.100 or Rs.200 and to avoid paying this penalty, he has to pay bribes. Thus he is penalised for an offence for which he is not responsible—rather the department is responsible for such irresponsible dealings and callousness on the part of the Rangers and other officers concerned.

Another instance is this that one is allowed to fell mature trees but without touching undeveloped trees near about. Sir, you can imagine that it is a fantastic thing to try to fell a big tree 60 or 70 feet high without injuring a single immature plant near about. As soon as such an immature plant is injured, the guard is there and he demands money. Unless he pays it, his licence is cancelled. So, one finds that there are incidences of corruption in this department. Unless radical changes are effected in the existing Manuals and the existing Rules, however much you may try, you cannot make the department free from corruption.

Now, my friends have often been confronted with a peculiar situation that during inspection or enquiry, witnesses do not come forth. It is well-known that living within water nobody likes to fight with a crocodile. People who trades with the products of forests have every day to depend on the local officers of the department. So, the witnesses do not come forward to say anything against them. It is only the vigilance of higher officers by touring there which can keep this corruption down and nothing else can do it.

Recently, a new system has been introduced in our district to the inconvenience of many and I can tell you definitely that by this system we have taken away food from many hungry mouths and many wood-cutters' families. This is to auction big plots of land. By this the elimination of corruption will not be possible. A poor man who has got capacity for about of only 30 maunds will have to go for his requirement to a millionaire who has got a big plot of land. Only people with millions of rupees who can come forward for open bidding will have the monopoly of forest products and forests cuttings, but the poor people who have to depend on small quantities of 20 or 30 maunds will be deprived and they will perish. These types of small cutters are more than big businessmen. To ensure steady and profitable realisation of revenue, no Government should compel a particular majority group of traders to perish. In the name of honesty, in the name of humanity I entreat the Government to desist from such a move.

Another important thing is this that during war time the prices of forest products were enhanced by 300 per cent. Today, although the war is over, this 300 per cent. increase is being maintained to the greatest disadvantage of the cutters and the consuming public. The Bengal forest products are not being able to compete with forest products from Santhal Parganas, Bihar and other places.

Sir, I want to tell the House that one enquiry took place with regard to the Forest Department 22 years ago and on their recommendation, certain improvements were made in the department. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to appoint an Enquiry Committee to look into the administration of the department *de novo* in all its aspects so that he may make rules with a clear perspective and with a view to entering the threshold of freedom that is awaiting us, he should take this bold step in no time. I know the appointment of an Enquiry Committee will not be misuse of the public exchequer.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, I have covered most of the points raised in my introductory speech. I will deal with only a few points that I have not mentioned there.

There are several causes for the decay of rivers and one of them is denudation of forests. To preserve and restore these forests is one of the principal items of our activities. As I have already stated, we have taken powers under the Bengal Private Forests Act for this purpose. The protection of wild fauna is also receiving our attention. Rules have already been made declaring closed seasons for various species of animals and these rules are strictly being enforced. Rs.25,000 has been included in the Agriculture budget for preliminary work for the establishment of a Natural Park at Kalimpong. Steps have been taken to extend cinchona cultivation in the province for which there is great demand.

The pay scales of the subordinate staff are being considered by Government now and in that connection, the pay scales of the subordinate Forest Department staff will also be revised. The matter is now being actively considered.

There are sanctuaries in both Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling for the protection of rhinoceros.

Government are aware of the complaints of corruption. Strict orders have been given to detect and punish all malpractices. I shall be grateful if specific instances are brought to my notice or to the notice of the higher officers, and I shall certainly have the patience to examine them. I will also see that unsatisfactory rules are amended. I do only want to point out that there are two parties to corrupt practices and I only hope that members of the public will desist from offering temptation and will co-operate with all measures that Government may take to eradicate corruption. It is not a fact that the rates of timber have been increased 300 per cent. I am sure the honourable member must have been mis-informed on this point. As a matter of fact the pre-war rates of *sal*, viz., As.12 per cubic feet and As.4 to As.6 for *Sindri* and other Sundarban timber are still continuing.

In the end I want to say that all the constructive suggestions given by the honourable members will be taken into consideration by the Government and will be given effect to as far as possible.

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs.62,83,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bijoy Krishna Sarkar that the demand of Rs.62,83,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bijoy Krishna Sarkar that the demand of Rs.62,83,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain that a sum of Rs.62,83,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" during the year 1947-48, was then put and agreed to.

5—Salt.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt".

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,63,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to take adequate steps for the development of salt manufacture as a home industry in coastal areas.

Sir, there is extensive coastal area in Bengal from the district of Midnapore up to Chittagong, and these coastal areas are naturally saline tracts and these are one-crop areas. Agriculture in these areas cannot and does not support the people of these areas and there is enforced idleness during at least five months of the year. But bounteous nature has provided a very fruitful occupation in another direction, and that is salt manufacture which, if developed, would make the people of these coastal areas prosperous and, at the same time, would meet the salt requirements of the province. But the people of the province remained deprived of this right of theirs by the British Government since the time of the East India Company, as British rule in India is based on economic exploitation of the masses. But through the immense suffering and sacrifices of millions of our countrymen during the salt campaign of 1930 under the lead of Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress, concession to manufacture salt in coastal areas and sell it in local markets to consumers and not for business was granted, and a further little concession was granted during war time due to scarcity of salt supply. Government should have availed of this opportunity for development of salt industry in the coastal areas, but they did not do it. At last through the ceaseless efforts of Mahatma Gandhi the Interim Government has now been pleased to abolish the salt tax altogether. What has Government done? Government has only established 17 warehouses to purchase salt from local manufacturers and this would have encouraged salt manufacture in the coastal areas, but the price fixed by Government is too low to encourage salt manufacture. They purchased salt in the warehouses at 5 pice per seer when salt was selling at 8 or 10 annas per seer and was not even available. They are also now purchasing at 5 pice per seer when salt is selling at no less than 3 annas per seer. Instead of encouraging salt manufacture this discouraged, definitely discouraged salt manufacture in the coastal areas; and the result is no wonder that nine out of 17 warehouses had to be closed. But in spite of that it appears by working out the figures in the budget estimate that no less than 6 lakhs maunds of salt were sold by local manufacturers to warehouses in the year 1945-46. It indicates to what extent this industry can be developed if proper encouragement be given to the industry.

Sir, Government is going to set up under the development scheme in the next year one Advisory Salt Committee and one organisation for salt development industry. But Government has not stated the functions of this committee and the functions of this organisation. There is no comprehensive planning behind the scheme. It is regrettable that Government is proceeding in this department as also in other departments without any comprehensive planning in their development programme. Three things are essentially necessary for the development of this industry. The first thing is if the industry is to be developed it must be developed on cottage industry basis.

The next thing is that the methods employed for manufacture of salt must be thoroughly improved, and it is nonetheless an important question that this industry should be organised on co-operative lines for the purpose of manufacture and marketing of salt. One thing is that the methods now employed by the manufacturers are crude. Even they do not know the methods employed by Malangeese or salt-manufacturing classes of olden times and of the times of the East India Company. Ready salt is not available in coastal areas of Bengal as in other provinces where ready salt can be picked up in coastal areas. Salt has to be manufactured from salt beds to be scraped up in coastal lands and that salt has to be soaked in water and aqueous solution has to be boiled. So it is a great problem to manufacture salt in coastal areas, and this problem has got to be solved.

Sir, the method of production of salt will have to be so improved as to eliminate the use of fuel in the manufacture of salt. So the sun evaporation method of salt manufacture should be so improved that it may be adopted in the manufacture of salt on cottage industry basis. And so long as these improvements are not introduced certain facilities should be given to the salt manufacturer, as for instance, they should be allowed to take fuel from the Government Reserve Forests either free of cost or at a nominal cost, and bounties should be given to them either in this form or salt should be purchased from warehouses at no lesser price than the market price and also iron pans and other utensils should be distributed to them at cheaper rate. In any case the interest of the salt manufacturers of the villages must not be jeopardised and must not be sacrificed. So if any development is to be made, it should be made on village industry basis. The previous right regained after a long struggle, sufferings and sacrifices should not be frittered away and should not be allowed to be usurped by big capitalists by establishing large scale industries of salt and thereby keeping the poor people of the coastal area unemployed for a great length of time.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,63,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100.

In this connection, Sir, I want to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government (a) to encourage salt manufacture as a cottage industry, especially in the Sundarbans, and (b) to enunciate a scheme of salt manufacture as a part of a consolidated ocean industry.

Sir, in moving this motion I would like to make an appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department. It has become customary in this House to move cut motions from this side. I regret to find that it has also become customary for the other side to reject those motions without even paying any attention to the criticisms that are made from this side of the House. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department not to consider the points that I would be raising, so callously. My first point is that this industry affects one of the very vital problems that confront the people of this province. As my previous speaker has elaborated, this salt tax against which there has been a long campaign involving countless sacrifice of young lives, has been one of the greatest injustices that have been ever perpetrated on the people of India, and that is why we on this side of the House, inside this House as well as outside,—the Congress—have cried hoarse for the abolition of this tax. I do not grudge if the members opposite now say that it has been the credit of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan to abolish this tax. I shall congratulate them if I find that Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan has full support for the spirit behind it; for it is not for the Congress to take any credit for any action of theirs—it is the Congress way only to act silently—and I may say that it is the Muslim League way of taking the credit of work done really by others.

Sir, the position briefly is this: Bengal is still far from becoming self-sufficient in salt. Even in 1939 there was a total import of 3,12,000 tons as against a local production of 1,559,000 tons. In this matter, Sir, Bengal again is the worst sufferer. If you look at the figures you will find that of the total Indian production Bombay contributes 34 per cent., Madras 33 per cent., Northern India 31·3 per cent., but Bengal produces almost nothing except an insignificant amount produced in certain coastal areas. The following figures reveal the helpless condition of Bengal. The following is the salt quotas of the Bengal market from the total import for the year 1936: from Aden the imported amount was 266,000 maunds, from Bombay 20,000 maunds, from Okha 65,000 maunds, from Kara 124,000 maunds, from Porbunder 33,000 maunds, from Morvi 25,000 maunds—total 5,33,000 maunds. These figures reveal the total helpless condition that Bengal is in. I need not refer you to those dark days when people had even to stand in long queues to obtain a pinch of salt and that again at prohibitive prices and even in the black-market. That being the position, it goes without saying that it is the duty of every Government, Central or provincial, to remove forthwith all the difficulties in the way of salt manufacture and to abolish all taxes on salt, and to take every effort to encourage salt industry. But what has really been done in this respect? Hitherto salt was subject to a double tax, namely, the Central duty of Rs.1-9 per maund and the local provincial excise duty of three annas per maund. It has now been known that the Central Government have done their duty by abolishing the duty on salt, but from page 13 of the Red book you will find that the three annas excise tax on salt levied by the provincial Government still remains and the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has the shamelessness, if I may be permitted to use that word, and temerity to come forward with a proposal for continuing the provincial tax as before. He has not even followed the example, as asserted by my friends opposite that his friend, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, has set, of coming forward with a proposal for abolishing the excise duty on salt. I make an appeal, if this Ministry intend to be a popular Ministry, if this Ministry has any consideration for the poor and suffering people of Bengal, if the members opposite are really friends of the people of Bengal, let them not dissent but join with us in putting pressure on the Ministry and compel them to abolish the provincial tax on salt.

Then, Sir, is that the only thing that the Bengal Government have done to smoothen the development of the industry? Look here to these facts. This so-called popular Ministry has not yet recommended to the Central Government for a revision of the Bengal Salt Rules which permit the production and sale of salt, free of tax, only in certain saline water areas and not outside those areas. So far as the whole of Bengal is concerned, excepting these certain limited areas the production of salt is still prohibited and nobody can produce salt without paying a duty to the Government. I ask, Sir, has this Provincial Government yet made any recommendation to the Central Government that these oppressive rules should be abolished?

I then, Sir, come to the next point. My friend Mr. Charu Chandra Bhandari has referred to the necessity of developing salt production as a cottage industry. I also, Sir, happen to represent a constituency which is a coastline constituency and where people have been producing a little salt from the saline water. But you know, Sir, that under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact provision was made for the free production and sale of salt only to that extent which one could carry on one's own head. It is not exactly known what one can carry on one's head. Perhaps it differs from person to person. But I say this that even if somebody produces a little salt, there are the corrupt local officials who pounce upon him and say "You have produced in excess of the regulations" and exact some bribe. Is the Bengal Government contemplating an enquiry into the corrupt functioning of the department which has become so oppressive on the people of these coastal areas?

I would like to refer again to that question which was so pertinently put by my friend Mr. Charu Chandra Bhandari. He raised the question that the prices that the Government are paying are totally inadequate while the prices they are charging from the consumers are very high, thus making a very large profit.

Lastly, I would refer to another point. He has referred to salt production on cottage industry basis. I would like to say that when Bengal is so backward in the production of salt for industrial purposes, the Bengal Government should take into serious consideration the proposal for the manufacture of salt also as part of a consolidated ocean industry. That is a new scheme and it has already been worked out in the United States of America where they are extracting from ocean water all types of salts, such as Sodium Sulphate, and even all types of minerals and all types of metals, such as copper, as are to be found in ocean water. Units have been established on the Pacific Coast for such extraction and that has revolutionised the prospects of the salt industry. If this Government are serious about their development programme, why should not they find it possible to take it up and establish an industry which, while not shutting out entirely the prospect of a sea of money for the Ministers, if they so choose to swim therein, will also bring to the vast masses an ocean of wealth from the wealth of the ocean?

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the time is very limited, I would like to make a very brief observation on the Salt Industry. It is useless to repeat the old history of salt manufacture. Now, the situation has thoroughly been changed. At the outset I must congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan for his bold step in abolishing the much-hated duty on salt at great loss to the Central revenues.

On the Revenue receipt side of the Budget Estimate at page 13 of the Red Book, I find a sum of Rs.10,000. This represents payments to Government at the rate of As.3 per maund of salt duty collected by agents in charge of warehouses. This should at once be abolished.

I also congratulate the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries for taking a very wise and timely step to develop the manufacture of salt as a cottage industry under the Development Programme. He has asked for a grant of a small amount of Rs.1,63,000, to begin with, as an experimental measure. This must be granted. To help to eke out the means of livelihood by the poorer section of the people in the coastal belt of the province, this industry should be encouraged. They should be provided with boiling pans free of cost. The earthen pots are very costly and do not last long. I would suggest providing at Government cost boiling pans for evaporating brine in salt-making made of "Tiscrom" plates, a new production of the Tatas which is non-corrosive by saline water.

This industry should be on co-operative line. On experimental basis, the warehouses should not be abandoned. One Auditor with a peon should be deputed and paid for by Government for each warehouse which should purchase all the production of the manufacturers and sell them at profit. As the manufacturers need immediate sale of their products, this scheme will greatly help them by eliminating the profiteering middle men.

In order to protect the infant cottage industry, a protective tariff should be imposed upon all the imported foreign salt. This will not only protect the industry but will also yield a good revenue to the province. The Government of India should at once be moved on this project and an Advisory Committee should be set up at once to advise Government.

If these suggestions are given effect to, I hope the coastal districts of Bengal will be able to supply sufficient salt not only to meet the demand of Bengal but will also be able to supply the demands of the neighbouring provinces of Assam and Bihar. -

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, my friends Mr. Bhandari and Mr. Sinha have made much of what they wanted to say. Before I say what the Bengal Government propose to take up, I will tell my friends that the Government of Bengal are very much alive to the gravity of the situation and every point of view that my friends have put forward will be taken into consideration and Government are taking time by the forelock and they are ready to deal with the situation.

My friend Mr. Bhandari has said that the Congress have been able to abolish the salt tax. My friend Mr. Sinha has been pleased to concede that Mr. Liaquat Ali, Finance Member, did abolish the salt duty. I am not going to enter into that controversy, but that is perhaps what the Muslim League Government of this province will also do and, therefore, it is no use simply throwing words—and may be, a little bit harsh words—on this side or that side. I am not going to imitate my friends. I am going to tell them that they do not know that the 3 annas duty that was imposed here was also done on account of the direction of the Central Government. (Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: But you have now become independent.) Then you will get salt free under the League Government. Already the salt duty has been abolished and you know very well that the tax of Rs.1-9 that has got to be paid so long will not have to be paid and so far as the payment of 3 annas is concerned, the Bengal Government would certainly consider that. (Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Why not announce it now?) I cannot do it because it is a matter for the Cabinet. I will recommend to the Finance Minister to put it up before the Cabinet and the whole thing will be favourably considered and decision arrived at soon. I would ask my friends to be a little bit patient.

I will tell my friends that it is better not to talk about Bombay and Madras. Bombay in the matter of textiles has gone ahead of us. The British Government came to this country here first. Here the textile industry was finished and the Permanent Settlement was established here. The people of this province did not take to industry and Bombay went ahead of them. The Muslim League Ministry will give you this thing. The Muslim League Ministry will abolish permanent settlement. The Muslim League Ministry will give you salt. Over and above that I may inform you that a salt factory will be established and for that Rs.5 lakhs has been asked for. Therefore your demand for a salt factory will be met before long and Bengal will have salt of her own.

So far as cottage industry is concerned, I can give you this assurance that with the abolition of salt duty, with the abolition of the inspecting staff, the individual cottage industry workers will be able to prepare their own salt free from all taxes and thereby they will earn money and be prosperous.

Sir, with these words I oppose all the cut motions and I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Bhandari that the demand of Rs.1,63,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Rs.1,63,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed that a sum of Rs.1,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-48 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 14th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 14th March, 1947, at 4-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 206 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Externals under the Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946.

*153. **Mr. RAM HARI ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(a) the number of persons belonging to—

(i) Hindu,

(ii) Muslim, and

(iii) Other Communities

so far externed from Dacca area under the Dacca Area Security Ordinance, 1946; and

(b) the number of—

(i) Hindus, and

(ii) Muslims,

if any, removed from Bengal under the said Ordinance?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy):

(a) (i) Twenty-two.

(ii) Twenty-two.

(iii) Nil. Many of the orders are provisional, dependent upon the orders passed in cases in which the men are accused.

(b) Nil.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: With reference to answer (a) (i) and (ii), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all of them are accused persons?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said many of them are accused.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of them are accused persons?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the persons referred to in answer (a) (i) and (ii) who are externed under provisional orders, were accused of criminal offences?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the exact meaning of the word "provisional"?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Provisional in the sense that externment orders have been served upon them but there are some cases against them and if they are convicted they will have to go back to the jail at Dacca.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of these persons appealed to the Provincial Government according to the provisions of the Ordinance?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: None, Sir.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Is it a fact that the internees who were under-trial prisoners for bailable offence were sent up to hazat under this Ordinance?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no information to that effect.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Is it a fact that in spite of a provision that they must be present at the time of hearing, *ex-parte* orders were passed against these persons?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no information.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Is it a fact that no time was given to the accused persons for taking copies and looking into the records in the case of these internees?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government have no information.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of Government to maintain the communal ratio rules in regard to these externment orders?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: বানানীর মহী মহাপর অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি এই সব লোককে কি কি অপরাধের জন্য বহিষ্কার করা হয়েছে?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: They are known persons who may have created troubles in Dacca.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: বানানীর মহী মহাপর অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি কোন সময় থেকে কোন সময়ের জন্য এদের বহিষ্কার করা হয়েছে?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I ask for notice.

Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd.

*154. **Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation Department be pleased to state—

- (a) what action has been taken to stabilise the financial position of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd;
- (b) whether the Government contemplate the creation of proper and representative non-official bodies to be associated with the co-operative movement in an advisory or supervisory capacity;
- (c) if so, whether the Co-operative Alliance is sought to be revived and, if so, whether a thorough amendment of its constitution is contemplated before it is revived in order to make it a mouthpiece of informed opinion on co-operative matters; and
- (d) whether the recommendations of the committee which enquired into All-India Co-operative problems are being examined with a view to early implementation?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdul Rahman): (a) Services of a Banking Expert have been placed at the disposal of the Provincial Bank and proposals for reorganisation of the Bank are being worked out.

(b) Government are satisfied that representative public opinion is associated with the Co-operative Movement.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain what are the methods through which representative public opinion is associated with the movement?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Most of the Directors are non-officials.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is now the Chairman of the Provincial Co-operative Bank?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report of the expert official is expected?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Very shortly.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long has he been working?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: He has been working since the time of His Excellency Mr. Casey.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many experts have been appointed for the reorganisation of the Bank?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: For details I want notice.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the banking expert was an official of the Provincial Government?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No, he was an official of the Imperial Bank.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: What is he drawing now as Banking Expert of the Provincial Co-operative Bank?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Nearly Rs. 1,100.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Is that amount paid from the Bengal Exchequer?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has been appointed a Director of that Bank by the Government?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have no such information.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Is it the policy under the Rowlands Committee recommendation that no Government officer shall hold any office in the Provincial Bank or the Central Bank?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: May be.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what function or functions this officer is discharging as Banking Expert?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: He is examining the financial position of the Bank and he is initiating a scheme as to how to improve the condition of the Bank.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that recently there has been a conference of co-operators from different parts of Bengal and their unanimous voice was for the abolition of this post of Banking Expert?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have no such information.

T. B. Hospital at Kanchrapara.

***155. Mr. MIR AHMED ALI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(i) how many patients can be treated in the recently started T. B. Hospital at Kanchrapara; and

(ii) whether beds have been reserved for the patients hailing from different districts?

(b) If the answer to (a) (ii) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the figures for the districts separately?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what criterion has been followed in determining the number of reservation for the districts?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali):

(a) (i) It is proposed to accommodate 500 patients ultimately but for the present the hospital has been started with 300 beds only.

(ii) Yes.

(b) Eight per district.

(c) As tuberculosis is prevalent more or less in all the districts of Bengal, it was considered equitable to distribute the beds equally among them.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by whom and on whose recommendation are patients admitted to this hospital?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: By a Committee.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the constitution of this Committee?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Director of Public Health, Deputy Surgeon-General and Superintendent of the Medical College.

*** Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this hospital at Kanchrapara is an up-to-date tuberculosis hospital with most of the modern paraphernalia?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Whether it has the modern paraphernalia, that is a matter of opinion. But I think, as far as possible, it is an up-to-date hospital.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the rest 76 seats have been kept reserved?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I can give you the details. The reservations are on the following accounts: special reservation for Calcutta Police T. B. patients—3; special reservation for Bengal Police T. B. patients—5; reservation of seats for seamen at Calcutta at the expense of Government of India—8;

reservation of seats for ex-military men, who are ~~now~~ or domiciled in Bengal, at the expense of the Red Cross Society in Bengal—6; 10 cabins (6 for males and 4 for females) for "A" class paying patients—10; single-seated rooms (24 for males and 8 for females) for "B" class paying patients at Rs. 5 per room per diem including diet charges—32; not allotted as yet—20.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is considering the desirability of reserving a few seats for patients in jails who are suffering from T. B.?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The matter will be considered by Government.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether there is a gulf of difference between population of one district and another?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Surely.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of distributing beds on population basis?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is in charge of this Hospital and what special training he has got?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: There is a Superintendent and many qualified doctors.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: I want to know the special qualification of the doctor in charge.

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all the beds in this Hospital are free or there are paying beds?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As I have already stated some of them are paying beds—42 beds, and the rest are free.

Mr. SYED HABIBUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that Mymensingh is the largest district in the Province?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Surely.

Mr. SYED HABIBUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Mymensingh being the largest district in the Province requires the largest number of beds?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The question of morbidity has got to be taken into consideration in the distribution of beds.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whose recommendation is necessary to admit a patient in the hospital?

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been answered—a Committee decides.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any arrangement for patients to live with family?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many beds are at present filled up?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a certificate of domicile by the District Magistrate or the Subdivisional Officer is required for admission?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether he considers it desirable to change that rule so that ordinary people from villages can secure admission by securing certificates not only from the District Magistrate and Subdivisional Officer, but from any other person of respectability?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Any proof given by a bona-fide person of position that the patient is domiciled in the district will do.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the basis of equal distribution of these beds?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Practically there is no basis, but generally it is distributed as 8 seats per district.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাদনীয় মহী মহাপন্ন অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে এই হাসপাতালে মেয়েদের জন্য বিশেষ কোন seat reserve করে রাখার ব্যবস্থা আছে কি না ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: There are already reserved seats for females.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: কতগুলি seat reserved আছে ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: 8 seats are reserved for females and as far as possible females are given preference.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাদনীয় মহী মহাপন্ন বলবেন কি হাসপাতালে মেয়েদের generalভাবে রাখা হয়, না তাঁদের জন্য special কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে ?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: In general seats. They are entitled to seats on payment.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given in respect of certificate, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to issue direction that certificates from persons other than District Magistrate and Subdivisional Officer may be accepted?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Surely.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of reconsidering their decision regarding distribution of seats?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No, Sir.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the event of a district not using its quota of 8 seats, the beds will be allotted to other districts which may be in need of them?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Surely.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the doctor in charge?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have just said, a Superintendent is in charge of the Hospital.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: His qualification?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the members of the Committee whose recommendation is necessary for admitting patients?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have already answered that.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any seats are reserved for children?

M. S. A. SALIM: No seats are reserved for children.

Maulvi MAHAMMAD OWAIS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if 500 seats are quite insufficient for patients suffering all over Bengal?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: They are insufficient.

Maulvi MAHAMMAD OWAIS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of increasing the number of beds?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Government certainly will try to open such hospitals in different parts of Bengal.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any seats are reserved for students as such?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Holding of L.M.F. Examination in respective schools outside Calcutta.

*156. **Mr. KHACENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that last year all the L.M.F. examinations of medical schools outside Calcutta were smoothly held in their respective schools?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this system will continue this year also specially in view of extreme shortage of accommodation and high living expenses in Calcutta?

MINISTER in charge of the HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a) The examinations of medical students were held in their respective schools but not without difficulty and extra expenditure to the State Medical Faculty.

(b) This year there will be only two centres for examination—Dacca and Calcutta.

I may state for the information of the honourable members that the question of having centres in respective Divisional Centres is again under the consideration of Government.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if that advantage will be taken this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have just stated in my reply (b) that I have re-opened this question and I am considering the desirability of having centres in the Government schools in the mofussil.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: This year?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes.

Increase in death rate and decrease in birth rate in Bengal.

*157. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the years 1943 and 1944 in the following respects:—
 - (i) alarming increase in the death rate in the Province due to all the diseases in the years 1943 and 1944 against that in the year 1942,
 - (ii) alarming decrease in the birth rate in the years 1943 and 1944 as against the year 1942, and
 - (iii) infant and maternal mortality;
- (b) the reasons for such increase and decrease in the death and birth rates respectively;
- (c) whether any investigation has been made into the reasons for such increase and decrease in the death and birth rates and, if so, with what result, and, if not, why not; and
- (d) what remedy, if any, has been suggested to avert this national calamity in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (a) Yes.

(b) Due to the famine conditions and their after-effects.

(c) No investigation was carried out as the reasons were obvious.

(d) The remedy would lie not only in increased public health activities but also in steps being taken to prevent recurrence of famine conditions. The Public Health Department has already taken steps to intensify public health activities in the Province. Subdivisional Health Officers have been appointed to be in charge of health activities in subdivisions and additional sanitary units and mobile medical units have been put to work in affected areas. Steps have also been taken under the Development Schemes to improve the water-supply both in rural and in municipal areas, and special measures are being adopted to encourage the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres and for the training of *dais* and midwives.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the increase in death rate and decrease in birth rate are only due to famine conditions and their effects?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that in rationed areas only a seer and ten chataks of rice is supplied and that the quantities of other eatables proportionately supplied are less than what is required for a human being, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the famine conditions prevailing in the years 1943-44 have improved or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member will realise that in my Budget statement I informed the House that the vital statistics for the year 1946 had been received in the Public Health Department and it showed that the health condition of Bengal in 1946 was the best in recorded history.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Health Officers had been appointed for all the Subdivisions in the Province? If not, the names of the Subdivisions where the Subdivisional Health Officers have been already appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give a categorical reply to this question, but to the best of my information there are Subdivisional Health Officers in almost all the Subdivisions of the Province. There may be one or two Subdivisions where we have not got the Subdivisional Health Officers.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if any arrangements have been made for curative treatments for epidemic diseases?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, the honourable member perhaps is aware that we have got more than 20,000 beds in Auxiliary Government Hospitals scattered all over the Province.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister that the health condition of the Province in the year 1946 was the best, I would request him to kindly let me know whether he is aware that in the district of Birbhum mortality has been the heaviest during the last decade?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. My information is otherwise. I had presented the overall picture of the Province and I said that the mortality rate from diseases like malaria, smallpox, cholera and other causes had decreased in the year 1946.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the statistics of death due to famine is arranged according to age groups?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I am not aware to what groups statistics have been taken so far as the years 1943-1944 are concerned.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is satisfied that the decrease in birth rate is due to famine conditions?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Are you referring to the year 1943-44?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Perhaps.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how without any investigation the Hon'ble Minister is definite that these causes of deaths and births are due to famine conditions and their after-effects?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There was no thorough investigation by Government, but they have reasons to come to the finding that in the year 1943 lot of diseases were caused due to famine and in the year 1944 as an aftermath of famine when people were undernourished and their immunity from diseases like smallpox, cholera, malaria had come down and that due to low vitality of the people they were easy victims of epidemics.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how they are encouraging the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres, whether by starting these centres entirely at Government cost or by subsidising the centres opened by private efforts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: By granting generous subventions to local bodies and to public committees in the matter of the establishment of child welfare and maternity clinics.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how far the Civil Supplies Department are responsible for more death and less birth?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the fact that a very large sum of allotment for rural water-supply this year remains unspent? And, if so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how they are progressing in the matter of that scheme regarding water-supply in the rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The question of large balance of the money under the head remaining unspent does not arise, because the financial year has not come to a close yet. Money is being spent but I am not able to give the honourable member the exact details as regards how much money has so far been spent and how much yet remains to be spent.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that it is the opinion of experts that low vitality during war time is responsible for the overall decrease in birth rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That evidently is a matter of expert opinion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that a thorough investigation was being carried into this matter by Professor Madhab of the Mysore University at the instance of the Bengal Government when he was stopped?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the condition of water-supply in the rural areas has deteriorated in recent years—not improved but has rather deteriorated?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, I am perfectly aware of the fact that lot of tube-wells in mufassal areas have gone out of order and many of the tube-wells are lying in a derelict condition and that was due to the fact that spare parts were not available and replacement could not be made, but Government have a scheme under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme for putting all the existing tube-wells in the Province in working order and they will give the charge of maintenance to local self-governing bodies.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: With reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister will he be pleased to state whether decrease in the mortality is in the case of big people?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow this question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the scheme regarding tube-wells will be put into operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It has been put into operation, but unfortunately due to scarcity of materials it could not be put into operation in all the districts of the Province. It has already been put into operation in several districts of the Province, especially I think the scheme has been put into operation in Chittagong and Dacca Divisions from one of which the honourable member comes.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether maternity wards are at present being maintained at the A. G. Hospitals of the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (d), viz., "The remedy would lie not only in increased public health activities but also in steps being taken to prevent recurrence of famine conditions" will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us as to what steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of famine conditions? He has not replied to that.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is a question which strictly does not come under this head. If I am to answer to question of my honourable friend it will take one hour.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: With reference to answer (d) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many maternity and child welfare centres have been set up during the last one year for the training of *dais* and midwives?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is a Health Officer at Satkhira or not? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: All health officers remain in districts and I am afraid Satkhira is not a district.

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: I mean Subdivisional Health Officer. I do not know whether there is a Health Officer in my subdivision or not.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot off-hand say whether there is a Subdivisional Health Officer at Satkhira. If the honourable member gives notice, I shall be able to answer that question.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: With regard to answer (d), namely, that special measures are being adopted to encourage the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Bankura Maternity and Child Welfare Centre has not been extended in spite of repeated applications?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I hope the honourable member will realise that it is not possible for me to keep all the facts and figures in my head. If any member wants details or any particular thing in a specific case, I am sorry I have to ask for notice.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in spite of donations for five rooms in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Bankura, for want of encouragement from Government arrangement could not be made to establish an extension of the centre and admit more indoor patients?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I do not remember having dealt with that question; if any philanthropist has given any donation for the construction of a maternity hospital, certainly Government will encourage establishment of the hospital and take the money provided the scheme satisfies the conditions laid down in the Government scheme.

Cost of maintenance of local bodies' roads damaged by military traffic.

*158. **Mr. G. P. G. WADE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what is the total estimated amount of the share of the Government of India of the extra cost of maintenance of roads belonging to local bodies in Bengal subjected to heavy military traffic, giving separate figures for Calcutta roads and roads outside Calcutta?

(b) (i) What sums have actually been recovered from the Government of India in respect of this extra cost of maintenance?

(ii) What sums still remain to be recovered?

(c) (i) Does the statement at page 83 of the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget Estimates for 1946-47 to the effect that "as the war has come to an end the Government of India will not bear any further cost of repairs" mean that the Government of India do not intend to pay their full share of the extra cost of maintenance?

(ii) If so, what action has been taken by the Provincial Government to ensure that the full amount will be recovered from the Government of India?

(iii) What representations have been made to the Government of India on this subject?

(d) What assistance is being given or is proposed to be given by the Provincial Government to local bodies to repair roads damaged by military traffic during the war years, or roads which have otherwise deteriorated due to the inability of the local bodies to maintain them in good repair?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (a) and (b) The formula laid down by the Central Government for the apportionment of the cost of repair of roads subjected to military traffic proceeded on the basis of the actual cost of repair in each accepted case and of this actual cost, a sum equal to twice the average annual repair charges during the three post-war years from 1936-37 to 1938-39, was to be borne by the local bodies and the balance by the Central Government. But as practically no repairs were undertaken by the local bodies during the war, except in a few isolated cases, the respective shares could not be calculated and no estimate of the amount payable by the Central Government has, therefore, been made. For the same reason, no amount has been recovered from that Government.

(c) (i) The statement means that the Government of India's formula for financial assistance ceased to operate after the 31st March, 1946, and that they have refused to consider claims for assistance for maintenance of roads on the ground of their use by military traffic after that date. The Government of India have, however, agreed to entertain proposals for contributions from the Centre towards the cost of maintenance of roads of military importance up to the 31st March, 1946.

(ii) and (iii) The case has been represented more than once to the Government of India whose attitude is that such expenditure cannot now be debited to the Defence Service Estimates or to the pre-war Road Fund Reserve which is already seriously depleted and that the Government of Bengal should find the necessary funds from the Development grants and loans to be made to it by the Centre.

(d) The Government of Bengal propose to distribute accumulations amounting to Rs.36 lakhs from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund for expenditure on the roads of local bodies.

I want to supplement this answer on the basis of latest information received. One of our officers has been deputed to Delhi to negotiate with the Government of India over this matter and he now reports that the Government of India are now willing to reconsider the matter strictly on the basis of repairs to roads which were actually damaged by war conditions and by vehicles belonging to the military. They are not agreeable to contribute towards the ordinary repairs to roads but if they are satisfied that the money is wanted for repairs to damages actually done by military vehicles, they are prepared to reconsider the question *de novo* and sympathetically.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the proposed money from the motor vehicles tax will be made available to local bodies?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We are trying to expedite the matter. We have got to examine the question on the basis of a formula which we have worked out and on that basis Government will have to make allocations to the various local bodies.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this amount from the motor vehicles fund of 36 lakhs will be spent particularly in those areas affected by the construction of aerodromes?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: This 36 lakhs has nothing to do with roads damaged by military vehicles, but it may be utilised by local bodies for repairs to roads damaged by military vehicles. This amount was used to be paid to local bodies out of the proceeds of the motor vehicles tax, but this was held in abeyance during the war. Now that the war is over, this accumulated sum should be paid to local bodies and the pre-war conditions will be imposed with regard to the utilisation of grants made to local bodies.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: What will be the fate of private roads—I mean roads in villages which were constructed out of public funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know what the honourable member means by private roads constructed out of public funds.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: With reference to answer (a) and (b), namely, that a sum equal to twice the average annual repair charges during the three post-war years from 1936-37 to 1938-39, was to be borne by the local bodies and the balance by the Central Government, but as practically no repairs were undertaken by the local bodies during the war, except in a few isolated cases, the respective shares could not be calculated, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, on the lines of the reply that he has given that there are roads which have definitely been damaged during the war period due to heavy military transport, even though no repair was undertaken from year to year, whether those damages can be easily assessed—is he of that opinion?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I could not follow the honourable member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please put your question straightaway.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Has any attempt been made on the part of Government to assess the actual damage caused to roads in different districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government have made no assessment of the damages. It was up to the local bodies to report to Government the estimate of cost necessary to repair the damages caused by the military transport.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that different district boards have made reports in writing giving their respective estimates about the cost of repairs and the extent of the damages that have been done during the war period?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell me whether with regard to the answer (a) and (b), line 5, the words "post-war years 1936-37 to 1938-39" are a printing mistake?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, 1936-37 is certainly not a post-war period.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In the light of the statement just made by the Hon'ble Minister regarding roads damaged by the exclusive use of the military during the war, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Jessore-Khulna road comes under that head under that definition?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the map of the whole Province of Bengal with me and I have not got the statistics of the damage done to all the roads running through the entire Province of Bengal and therefore I cannot oblige my friend by giving him a suitable answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of an adjournment motion on the question of firing on the port workers on the 13th March and I find that consent has been refused. But as it is an important matter I would like to know as to why you have been pleased to refuse consent.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: I also tabled a motion for adjournment for the purpose of raising a discussion about a matter of urgent public importance, and I find consent had been refused to my motion relating to the firing that took place yesterday on the strikers working in the port of Calcutta. May I know the reason, Sir, why consent has been refused to my motion of adjournment?

Mr. SPEAKER: Members know that the Chair is not bound to give reasons for the refusal of consent to an adjournment motion but when the matter has been raised in this House I do not like to keep back the reasons which compelled me to refuse consent to this important matter.

Members are aware that we are very much hard-pressed for time during the budget session. Not only that. This time-table for the budget discussion is fixed by the Governor of the Province and if an adjournment motion is admitted and has got to be discussed, either this has got to be discussed off from the time-table already fixed by the Governor for the budget or the House has got to sit extra time or twice a day for discussing it. The matter which has been raised in these two adjournment motions is no doubt grave and requires discussion. But when I find that the Police budget is coming up for discussion tomorrow, I consider that the honourable members will get ample opportunity to express themselves and record their views with regard to this matter also. I think that will satisfy the honourable members.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: It does not satisfy me because workers are being killed day in and day out and I do not know whether the Governor is at all aware or was aware of that when he fixed the time for the budget discussion. If necessary, we should sit for extra hours to discuss such important matters and consent should not be refused for such important matters when workers are being killed day in and day out by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Police budget will come up tomorrow when you can discuss this matter. Even if it were admitted, it could not have been discussed today but some other day would have been fixed for that. So, tomorrow is the earliest date when you can get an opportunity to discuss this matter. I do not think the members are in any way prejudiced by the refusal of consent by the Chair.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: After consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, I agree, Sir, to the suggestion that you have been kind enough to make.

FINANCIAL.

Appropriation and Finance Accounts for 1944-45.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: In compliance with section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay before the Assembly the Appropriation Accounts and the Finance Accounts for the year 1944-45 together with the Audit Report thereon.

Authenticated Schedule of Supplementary Estimate, 1946-47.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, in pursuance of section 81 read with sub-section (2) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay before the Assembly a Supplementary Schedule of authorised expenditure for 1946-47, authenticated by the signature of His Excellency the Governor under sub-section (1) of section 80 read with section 81.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,49,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments".

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the utility of the existing Labour Welfare Centres.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the establishment of a conciliation machinery for settling industrial disputes.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government (1) to make the service of the labourers secure; (2) to provide them with habitable quarters; (3) to increase their income with a view to make it tally with the increase in the cost of living; (4) to provide them with suitable pension and provident fund; (5) to make arrangement of maternity clinic for female labourers.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the composition of the contemplated Labour Advisory Board.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to compile statistics with regard to the conditions of labour in Bengal.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the policy of the contemplated Labour Journal.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to make labour an independent department instead of keeping it subordinate to the Miscellaneous Department as at present.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, শ্রমিকদের অভাব অভিযোগের অন্ত নাই এবং যে সময় আমাদের দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে তাদের সব অভাব অভিযোগ সম্বন্ধে বলা অসম্ভব। তাই ১৫ বৎসরকাল শ্রমিকদের সেবা করে যে অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ হয়েছে এবং তার ফলে তাদের যে কয়েকটি বিশেষ অভাব অভিযোগ বুঝতে পেরেছি সে সম্বন্ধে আজ সংক্ষেপে দুই চারটি কথা বলব।

শ্রমিকদের পুখর অভাব হচ্ছে যে তাদের চাকরী পাকা নয়, এমন কি ৩০৪০ বৎসর চাকরী হয়ে গিয়েছে এমন সব শ্রমিককে মালিক স্বীকৃত বলতে পারে "চলা যাও, নেকাল যাও" এবং মালিকের এইসব ছকনের বিরুদ্ধে শ্রমিকদের কোন কিছুই বলার কিংবা করার পথ নেই, তাদের বাধ্য হয়ে চলে গিয়ে বেকার বন্টে হয়। সুতরাং যদি আমাদের জিজ্ঞাসা করা হয় পুখরে শ্রমিকদের কোন দাবী পূরণ হওয়া দরকার—আমি নিঃসঙ্কোচে বলবো। সর্বপ্রথমে তাদের চাকরী পাকা হওয়া দরকার, গভর্ণমেন্ট অফিসে যারা কাজ করেন তাদের চাকরী যেমন পাকা। তারপর যদি আমাদের জিজ্ঞাসা করা হয় তাদের দ্বিতীয় কোন অভাব সম্বন্ধে বড়—আমি বলব তাদের মাইনে বাড়ানো দরকার। এখন যে মাইনে তারা পায় তাতে মানুষের মত কেন—কোন কিছু মতই বেঁচে থাকা সম্ভব নয়। কিছুদিন আগে আমি এই ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে একটি প্রশ্ন করেছিলাম। তার উত্তর পুসঙ্গে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলেছিলেন, শ্রমিকদের যুদ্ধের সময় মাইনে, ভাতা এবং অন্যান্য বাবত যে মাইনে বেড়েছে তার চেয়ে বরচ থাকে। এক গুণ বেড়েছে অর্থাৎ যদি ১৯১৯ সালে তাদের আয় ছিল এক, এখন তাদের মাইনে বেড়ে হয়েছে দুই এবং বরচ বেড়ে হয়েছে তিন। বর্তমানে শ্রমিকেরা সব সময়ে যা পায় তাদের আয় যদি তার অর্ধেক বাড়ি তবে তাদের অভাব ধার্মিক পূরণ হতে পারে। নইলে কিছুতেই তাদের পেট ভরে খেয়ে মানুষের মত বেঁচে থাকা সম্ভব নয়। তারপর তাদের বাসস্থানের কথা বলা দরকার। অধিকাংশ জায়গায়ই শ্রমিকদের থাকবার জায়গা দেওয়া হয় না। তারা যেখানে সেখানে কোন প্রকারে থাকে। জায়গা সংগ্রহ না করতে পেরে অনেক সময় রাস্তার পাশে শুয়ে রাত কাটায় কিংবা অনেকে মিলে সাধারণ একখানা কুঁড়ে ঘর ভাড়া নিয়ে তাতে কোন প্রকারে দিন গুজায়। কোন কোন জায়গায় অবশ্য তাদের জন্য বাসস্থানের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু সে সবের অধিকাংশ এত খারাপ যে তাতে মানুষের কোন গরুর পর্যন্ত বাস করা অসম্ভব। আমি এই পুসঙ্গে Andrew Yule Company বন্ধুত্বে শ্রমিকদের জন্য যে বাসস্থানের ব্যবস্থা করেছে তার উল্লেখ করতে চাই। এসব বাসগৃহে আলো হাওয়া যাওয়ার কোন পথ নেই—বেরে অত্যন্ত সৌন্দর্যে। এসব বাস করলে Tuberculosis, ব্যালেরিয়া প্রভৃতি ব্যাধির হওয়া প্রায় অনিবার্য অর্থাৎ Andrew Yule Company কলিকাতার বনী Companyগুলির অন্যতম। আমি এ নাগাশ শ্রমিকদের তিনটি অভাবের কথা বলেছি—(১) শ্রমিকদের চাকরী পাকা হওয়া দরকার, (২) তাদের মাইনে বাড়ানো দরকার, (৩) তাদের বাসস্থানের উন্নতি অত্যাবশ্যক। এখন তাদের চতুর্থ দাবী Pension ও Provident Fundএর কথা বলবো। অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রে শ্রমিকদের জন্য Pensionএর কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। কিছুদিন আগে বিভিন্ন চাকরির শ্রমিকদের জন্য মাসে ১০ টাকা করে Pensionএর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। বর্তমানে ১০ টাকার একজন শ্রমিকের চলাই অসম্ভব। তাতে যে শ্রমিকের ছেলে পিলে স্নীপ্ত আছে তাদেরও চলা বোটেই সম্ভব নয়। তাই ১০ টাকা খুবই কম, এতে কিছুই হ'তে পারে না। একজন শ্রমিক অবসর গ্রহণকালে যে মাইনে পায় Pensionএ অন্তত তার অর্ধেক হওয়া দরকার। কিন্তু বর্তমানে শ্রমিকদের মাইনে এত কম যে অর্ধেক Pension দিলেও কুলানো কঠিন। তাই Pensionএর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাদের জন্য Provident Fundএরও ব্যবস্থা থাকা আবশ্যক যাতে তারা ২৫১৩০১৫ বৎসর চাকরীর পর অবসর গ্রহণের সময় কিছু মগন টাকা হাতে নিয়ে যেতে পারে।

তারপর বহু কারখানার বেয়েরা কাজ করে। অনেক সময় এসব বেয়েরা যে ঘরে থাকে আরও অনেক শুল্ক সে ঘরে থাকে। এক এক ঘরে ২১৩ পরিবার পর্যন্ত একত্রে বাস করে। এ অবস্থার বেয়েরাদের ছেলেবেলে হওয়ার সময় যে দুর্বলতার পড়তে হয় তা অবর্ণনীয়। তাই শ্রমিক কারখানার এক একটি Maternity Clinic বা শিশু-ভবন স্থাপন করা দরকার। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এ পর্যন্ত কোন কারখানায়, এমন কি বড় বড়-টাকলে পর্যন্ত কোন শিশু-ভবনের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়নি।

পুঙ্খ শ্রমিকদেরও কোন হাসপাতালে ভাড়া পাওয়া কঠিন। আমি এই শ্রমকে বেলেঘাটার একটি সাম্প্রতিক ঘটনার কথা বলছি। কিছুদিন আগে সেখানকার কোনও এক কারখানার তৈনিক শ্রমিক যক্ষ্মারোগে আক্রান্ত হয়। সে শরীর মালিক বনন জানতে পারল সেই মুহূর্তেই তার চাকরী গেল এবং তাকে বাড়ির কক্ষির হয়ে দাঁড়াতে হল। উপাচার্যবরীণ হয়ে সে তৈনিক বাসচালকের গৃহে আশ্রয় নেয়। সেই বাসচালক আমাকে বন—ওগো বাবু, একে একটা হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করে দিতে হবে। আমি অনেক চেষ্টা করেও তাকে কোন হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করতে পারলাম না কারণ শ্রমিকদের জন্য কোন হাসপাতালে ভাড়া পাওয়া পুঙ্খ। মণিকতলার দুর্গতলের জন্য একটি হাসপাতাল আছে। তাতে ভর্তি করতেও আমার নিজেব পকেট থেকে ৫০ টাকা দিতে হল। না দিলে ভাড়া ভুলেও না। এইতো অবস্থা। তাই মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বলছি, শুধু শ্রমিকদের জন্যই কলিকাতায় একটি হাসপাতালের ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। পুশ্র হতে পারে শুধু শ্রমিকদের জন্য কেন? কলিকাতার অধিবাসীদের প্রায় ১২ আনাই শ্রমিক, তাই তাদের জন্য একটি বিশেষ হাসপাতাল স্থাপন শুবই সমীচীন।

এইত গেল শ্রমিকদের প্রধান কয়টি অভাব অভিযোগের কথা। এ ছাড়া তাদের আরও অসংখ্য অভাব অভিযোগ আছে। তাদের অতি ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবী পূরণের জন্যও অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রে হস্তান্তর করা ছাড়া গত্যন্তর থাকে না। কলিকাতায় এখন যে সব হস্তান্তর চলছে তাদের দুই একটির কথা বললেই অবস্থা স্পষ্ট বুঝা যাবে। তিন সপ্তাহের অধিককাল ধাবং বিবরা গ্রাণার্সের আপিসের শ্রমিকদের হস্তান্তর চলছে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন, এই যে হস্তান্তর চলছে এর কাবন অতি ন্যায়সঙ্গত এবং আইনসঙ্গত। কথা উঠেছে আপিসের শ্রমিকদের পক্ষে Union গঠন করা ন্যায়সঙ্গত কিনা। ১৯২৯এর Trade Disputes Act অনুসারে আপিসের দেবাবণীরা শ্রমিক পর্যায়ভুক্ত ছিল কিনা বলা কঠিন, কিন্তু ১৯৪৬এর নতুন Industrial Act এই অধিকার পবিকার করে আপিসের দেবাবণীদের দেওয়া হয়েছে, কিন্তু Birla Brothers কিছুতেই আপিসে Union গঠতে দিলে না। তাই বিবরা গ্রাণার্সের আপিসের ১১ শত শ্রমিক হস্তান্তর করেচে Union গঠনের দাবী করে। আশ্চর্যের বিষয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এই অতি ন্যায়সঙ্গত হস্তান্তর মিটানোর জন্য সেরূপ কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। কিছুদিন আগে Writers' Buildingsএ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের আপিসে একটি সম্মেলন হয়। সেই সম্মেলনে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় নিজে ও Labour Commissioner উপস্থিত ছিলেন। Birla Brothersএর পক্ষের লোক উপস্থিত ছিল। শ্রমিকদের প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে আমিও সেখানে গিয়েছিলাম। মালিকরা কোন কথাই গুনল না। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বিরোধের বীমাংসার কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। সত্যিকার ইচ্ছা থাকলে বচ আপগেট (Conciliation)এর ব্যবস্থা করতে পারতেন, কিন্তু সে চেষ্টা তিনি করেন নাই। আপনগা কেউ যদি বিবরা গ্রাণার্সের অফিসের সামনে যান তবে দেখতে পারেন নিবাসি মিলিটারীর ব্যবস্থা—কত সৈনিকের আমদানী করা হয়েছে। দেখলে মনে হবে যেন একটি থাকাও যুদ্ধক্ষেত্র। মালিক পক্ষের সাহায্যের এত বন্দোবস্ত করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু শ্রমিকদের সাহায্যের জন্য মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এতটুকু পর্যন্ত করেন নাই। শুধু বিবরা গ্রাণার্সের অফিসে নয়, ট্রাম Companyর শ্রমিকদেরও হস্তান্তর চলছে। বিবরা গ্রাণার্স আপিসের শ্রমিকদের Union গঠন হবে কিনা এবং ট্রাম শ্রমিকদের দাবী যুক্তিসঙ্গত কিনা সে সম্বন্ধে একটি Enquiry করা উচিত ছিল। এই উদ্দেশ্যে অনেক আগেই একটি Enquiry Board স্থাপন করা যেত। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় সেদিকে কোন চেষ্টাই করেন নাই। শ্রমিকদের সুবিধার্থে এ ধরনের আদো যে আইন আছে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট সে সবার প্রয়োগ করতেন না। বীমাংসার সত্যিকারের চেষ্টা করা হলে মালিক বীমাংসায় আসতে বাধ্য হ'ত, কিন্তু মন্ত্রী মহোদয় তা করেন নাই। পক্ষান্তরে হস্তান্তর বেআইনী করে দিয়েছেন এবং একে একে শ্রমিক নেতাদের গ্রেপ্তার করতেন। এখন আরও একটি হস্তান্তর চলছে—পোর্টে। সেখানে ২২ হাজার শ্রমিক হস্তান্তর করে বসে আছে। আমি ভোর করে বলতে পারি তাদের দাবী অত্যন্ত ন্যায়সঙ্গত ও যুক্তিপূর্ণ। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় তাদের দাবী ত' উপেক্ষা করতেনই পক্ষান্তরে তাদের উপর গুলী চালানো হয়েছে। তাই মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের বিরুদ্ধে, বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের বিরুদ্ধে আমাদের প্রধান অভিযোগ এই যে, যে সামান্য আইন শ্রমিকদের পক্ষে আছে তারও পর্যাপ্ত ব্যবহৃত প্রয়োগ করা হচ্ছে না। পক্ষান্তরে মালিকদের কাছ থেকে টাকা নিয়ে শ্রমিকদের বমন করার সর্বপ্রকার চেষ্টা হয়েছে। পুলিশ এমন কি মিলিটারীর সাহায্য নিতে পর্যাপ্ত তাঁরা কল্পন করেননি।

এখন আমি Welfare Centre সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটি কথা বলবো। এইসব Centreএর পিছনে প্রতি বৎসর ৫০০০০ হাজার টাকা খরচ হচ্ছে। কলিকাতার আসে পাশে বিভিন্ন শ্রমিক কেন্দ্রে Welfare Centreএর আপিস আছে। এসব আপিসের সামনে Sign Boardএ Bengal Labour Welfare Centre লেখা আছে বটে, কিন্তু কাজের নামে কিছুই নাই। এক একটি Centreএ সাধারণতঃ দুইজন লোক আছে—একজন দ্বিমু সন্দূর্ণ নিষ্ক্রিয়, দ্বিতীয়টি মুসলমান। জর কাজ মুসলিম লীগের পক্ষে Propaganda চালানো।

শ্রমিকদের সত্যিকার মঙ্গলজনক কোন কাজই এসব কেন্দ্রে হয় না। চলে শুধু মুসলিম লীগের Propaganda. মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যদি Labour Welfare সন্থকে কিছু জানতে চান তাহলে আমি তাঁকে অনুরোধ করছি, তিনি যেন Ahmedabad যান। সেখানে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর প্রচেষ্টায় প্রতিষ্ঠিত Labour Association এর তরফ থেকে যে সব Labour Welfare Centre করা হয়েছে সেগুলি যেন তিনি একবার দেখে আসেন। সেখানে শ্রমিকদের ছেলেনেয়েদের লেখাপড়া শিকার জন্য কিরূপ ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, মেয়েদের চিকিৎসার জন্য কিরূপ ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, পুরুষদের চিকিৎসার জন্য কিরূপ ব্যবস্থা আছে, শ্রমিকদের ভাল সরবরাহের কিরূপ ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, সেখানে শ্রমিকদের সর্বপ্রকার মঙ্গলের জন্য কিরূপ চেষ্টা চলছে সব তাঁকে একবার গিয়ে দেখে আসতে অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি। সেখানকার তুলনায় বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট শ্রমিকদের Welfare এর জন্য কিছুই করছেন না। এখানে Labour Welfare Centre হ'ল শুধু মুসলিম লীগের Propaganda Centre.

মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এইবার Labour Journal এর জন্য বহু টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন। এই পুস্তকে এই কথা বলে দিচ্ছি, বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের বর্তমানে দুইখানা কাগজ আছে—একখানা “Bengal Weekly” আর একখানা “বাংলার কথা”। এ ধরনের কাগজ যেন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বের না করেন। এ ধরনের কাগজ আনবা চাই না। এই “Bengal Weekly” এবং “বাংলার কথা” মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের চবি, গভর্নরের চবি এবং তাঁদের প্রশাসনই ভরা থাকে। জনগণের মঙ্গলজনক কথা বা সংবাদ খুব কমই এতে দেখা যায়। Labour Journal-খানাও যেন মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের চবি, Labour Commissioner এর চবি ও তাঁদের প্রশংসা ছাপানোর জন্য বের না করা হয়। এট বরক কাগজ আনবা চাই না। তিনি যদি শ্রমিকদের সত্যিকারের মঙ্গল চান তাহলে আমি তাঁকে অনুরোধ করবো তিনি যেন মিডেলের গুণগণনা জাহির করার উদ্দেশ্যে নাহে, শ্রমিকদের দুঃখ-দুর্দশা মোচনের উদ্দেশ্য নিয়েই কাগজখানা বের করেন।

এখন আমি Statistics সহজে কিছু বলবো। আমি অনুরোধ করছি একটি Committee গঠন করে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট Statistics সংগ্রহ করুন—শ্রমিকদের প্রতি পরিবারের ঋণ কত, তাদের family বাজেট কিরূপ, তাদের cost of living কিরূপ বেড়েছে বা কমেছে এসব খবর সংগ্রহই হবে এ কমিটির কাজ।

Mr. SPEAKER : Dr. Banerjee, your time is up.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE : আমার সময় হয়ে গেছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE : আর দুই একটি কথা বলে শেষ করছি। আমি গভর্নমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করছি United Provinces এ যে ধরনের Labour Advisory Board আছে সে ধরনের একটি Labour Advisory Board করুন, তাতে শ্রমিকদের ভাল হবে। আন একটা কথা বক্তার বলেছি এবং আজও বলছি। এটা আমাদের পক্ষে ও মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের পক্ষে বড়ই লজ্জার কথা যে Labour এর মত একটি Important Departmentকে “47—Miscellaneous Department”এ অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে রাখা হয়েছে। আমি আশা করি মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এ বিষয় অবহিত হবেন এবং আগামী বারে Labour Departmentটিকে একটি স্বাধীন Departmentরূপে দেখতে পাবো।

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN : Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head “47—Miscellaneous Departments” be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to settle industrial disputes between employer and employee.

Sir, I beg further to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head “47—Miscellaneous Departments” be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about labour policy of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I will try to draw your attention to the peculiar position of the Ministry in Bengal *vis-a-vis* the Labour. It is known that none of the honourable members supporting the Ministry or none of the honourable members belonging to the Treasury Bench have been elected from any of the Factory Labour Constituencies of Bengal. Not only a single person belonging to the Treasury Bench has not been elected from any of the Factory Constituencies but the Muslim League did not dare set up any single candidate in any of these constituencies. I do

not know, Sir, whether the Muslim League retired in favour of any other group, but there was a persistent rumour during the last election that they did—and we had occasions to see Muslim League volunteers—canvassing on behalf of the members of certain groups.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: On a point of order, Sir. This is all perfectly irrelevant.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: But the fact remains that none of them has been elected from any of the Factory Labour Constituencies and the present unrest among the working classes is well known, and failure of the Ministry to tackle it is largely due to this anomalous position of the League Ministry *vis-à-vis* Labour. I should like to bring to your notice another anomaly obtaining with regard to the Labour Department. The Labour Department is not a separate department, it has been tagged to two departments such as Commerce and Industries. Whatever may be the circumstances obtaining in other countries, in India and particularly in Bengal where the employers are unimaginative and unsympathetic and where Labour is disorganised and unconscious, such an amalgamation is not helpful to the interests of the working classes. The working classes in Bengal look forward to their own Labour Minister to give a lead to their movement, to secure for them their just and legitimate rights and to try for the removal of their manifold grievances and for that matter the Labour Minister in Bengal must needs come in conflict with the employers in Bengal who, as I have already described, are unimaginative and unsympathetic even now. Therefore, Sir, the tagging of all these departments together is causing great harm to the cause of Labour in Bengal. In fact, it is from these two anomalous positions that all the evils and all the defects are obtaining in the Labour front of Bengal. There is a popular Ministry, yet there is unrest among the labourers and the Ministry cannot go forward, cannot approach them and cannot pacify them, nor can secure justice for them.

Sir, there is also another effect of this anomaly.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

I do not know how much time I have been given.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get one minute more.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, as a result of this general reaction of the Ministry, the unrest among the working classes in Bengal is manifold. I can enumerate them. I do not know whether I have time to do so. The first reaction is to allow this great unrest to drift; the second reaction is to ask these people to accept adjudication; the third reaction is one of threat that either you withdraw your strike or we won't do anything for you; and the fourth reaction is to go on arresting them and firing upon them. I say none of these reactions is helpful and conducive to the creation of healthier and better relations between the labour classes and other classes of our society.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. KHACENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the tea labour conditions and the working of the Labour Ministry.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি আজ যেহেতুগা শ্রমিক সংস্কার করা বলতে উঠেছি
বাংলা দেশে তাদের সংখ্যা প্রায় ১০০ লক্ষ। থাকে তারা চা বাগানে। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের
একটা Labour Department আছে। একজন Labour Commissionerও আছেন।

এঁরা কোন দিন এই শ্রমিকদের তথ্য উল্লাস বা খোঁজ খবর রাখবার প্রয়োজন বোধ করেন না। এঁদের বাধা হয়েছে প্রায় আদিম অবস্থার (primitive condition)। বাইরের ভগতের আলো হাওয়ায় হোঁচট খাড়ে একটুকু এঁদের গায়ে না লাগে তার চেটার কোন ক্রটিই সরকার পক্ষ বা বাগানের মালিকের পক্ষ থেকে হয় না। একে 'ত' চা বাগানগুলো অবস্থিত হয় হিমালয়ের পর্বতের কোলে না হয় তার পাশদেশে; তার ওপর শ্রমিকদের বস্তুগুলি রাখা হয়েছে চা বাগানের সীমানার মধ্যে যেখানে Manager-এর অনুরতি ছাড়া সাধারণের শ্রবেণ নিষেধ। ১৯২৯-৩১ সালে labour সম্পর্কে যে Royal Commission বা Whitley Commission ভারতবর্ষের শ্রমিকদের খোঁজ নিতে এসেছিলেন তাঁরা এই সম্পর্কে যে সুপারিশ করেন তা' আপনাদের বোধ হয় জানা আছে। তাঁরা স্বস্পষ্ট বলেছিলেন চা বাগানের শ্রমিকেরা সম্পূর্ণ free বা মুক্ত নয়; এই রকম বাধা থেকে তাদের মুক্ত করতে হবে। আনি এখানে আবার সেই Commission-এর দুই চারিটি লাইন পড়ে ওঠাচ্ছি।

"We do not regard as satisfactory the existing position where the workers are largely isolated from outside influence and any member of the public may be effectively prevented from approaching the workers' lines except with the manager's permission. On principle it is objectionable that considerable areas included within the garden grants, in which large numbers of workers are settled, can be entirely closed to anyone who may be interested in their welfare. We have considered the points submitted to us, namely, the danger of interested people attempting to make use of the illiterate and ignorant labour force on the tea gardens for purposes unconnected with labour, but this is a risk to which every industry in India is exposed, and we think it better to face it than to continue a policy which inevitably gives rise to suspicion and is liable to be abused."

এর পর প্রায় ১৫ বৎসর পার হয়ে গিয়েছে। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট এ সম্পর্কে এ পর্যন্ত কোন step নেন নি। তার পর এদের segregate করে রাখার নীতি অনুসারে চা বাগানের ভিতরে হাট বাজারের ব্যবস্থা করে দেওয়া হয়েছে। শিক্ষার আলো এরা যাতে না পায় তার ব্যবস্থাও সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আছে। এই চা বাগানগুলির নিকট হতে বহু টাকা education cess আশয় করা হয়। প্রতি বাগান প্রতি বৎসর সাত শত হ'তে বার শত টাকা education cess দেয় অথচ সেখানে বিদ্যালয়ের নাম গন্ধ নেই। এই সব চা বাগানে অন্যথাসে Compulsory Free Primary Education introduce করা যেতে পারে, কিন্তু তা' করা হচ্ছে না। আমাদের জেলায় প্রায় ১৮৯টি চা বাগান আছে। Rege Committee যখন সেখানে গিয়েছিল তখন তাঁরা কাগজে কলমে লেখেছেন ১৪৯টি পাঠশালা আছে এবং তাতে প্রায় ৪ হাজার ছাত্র পড়াশুনা করে। কিন্তু আমরা এটা বিশেষভাবে জানি, কেবল মাত্র কাগজে কলমেই এইসব ছাত্রের অস্তিত্ব আছে। কতকগুলি ছাত্র বর আছে বটে, কিন্তু সেগুলি বাগানের Show Room মাত্র। শ্রমিকদের চেলেবাই হাঁটিতে শিখলেই বাগানের কাছে নিযুক্ত হয়। চা বাগানে যত শ্রমিক আছে তার শতকরা ২০ জন children এবং ১৫ বৎসরের নিম্নবয়স্ক শ্রমিকের সংখ্যা। শতকরা প্রায় ২৬ জন। সেখানে শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা কিছু নেই। এতে আশ্চর্য্য হবার কিছু নেই। তাদের housing এবং sanitation-এর ব্যবস্থা অতি চমৎকার। যে সব ঘরে তারা থাকে সেগুলিকে বর না বলে বাঁশ খড়ের ঘোপড়া বরো চলে। তার উপর আবার যে ঘরে থাকে সেই ঘরেই বাঁশ ও খাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা। জানালা নেই। অতি নীচ, পৌতগোঁটে, অন্ধকার; এবং এই কারণে তারা phthisis এবং নানা রকম heart diseaseও ভোগে এবং মারা যায়। জলের ব্যবস্থাও চমৎকার। Sanitation-এর ব্যবস্থা নেই বরো চলে যার ফলে সেখানে dysentery বা আমাশা বোগের প্রাদুর্ভাব শুধু। আপনারা জানেন চা বাগান অঞ্চল সাধারণতঃ malarious। এই malaria দুর করার জন্য গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষ থেকে অথবা চা বাগানের মালিকদের তরফ থেকে আজ পর্যন্ত বিশেষ কোন চেষ্টা করা হয় নাই। বাগানে বাগানে একটি করে চিকিৎসালয় আছে বটে কিন্তু তাতে indoor patient রাখার ঠাঁই নেই। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট ১৯৩৯ সালে নিম্ন শ্রমিকদের জন্য Maternity Benefit Act-এর ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, কিন্তু তার মধ্যে থেকে চা বাগানের ত্রীলোক শ্রমিকদের ব্যতীত কেউই হয়নি। হয়েছে, অথচ চা বাগানের শ্রমিকদের প্রায় অর্ধেকই ত্রীলোক। একথা বুঝতে কারও কষ্ট হয় না যে শ্রমিকদের জন্য এই সীপ মতী-সজার কোন দরল নেই। ১৯৪৬ সালে বর্তমান বতী মহাপ্রাণ চা বাগানের শ্রমিকদের জন্য Maternity Benefit বিল আনতে চেষ্টাছিলেন এবং সে বৎসর October-এর Gazette-এ একটা Bill published হয়েছিল বটে, কিন্তু তাতে যে ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছিল তা' শুনলে আপনারা

একবারে চমকুত হবেন। যেখানে অন্যান্য বিলের খ্রী শ্রমিকদের জন্য maternity benefit বাধ ২৮ টাকা benefit বন্ধ করা হয়েছে সেখানে চা বাগানের খ্রী শ্রমিকদের জন্য বাধ ১২২ টাকা ঠিক করেছিলেন। যা' হউক Central Government এর শ্রম বর্ধী মহাপ্রায় জাম্বারী নামে একটি Conference ডেকেছিলেন সেখানে তাঁর চেয়ার এই প্রকার শ্রমিকদের maternity benefit প্রায় ২৮ টাকায় ঠাঁড়িয়েছে। (At this stage red light was lit.) আর দুই মিনিট, স্যার। Whitley Commission ও Rege Committee চা বাগানের শ্রমিকদের সম্পর্কে enquiry করে গিয়েছেন। তাঁরা প্রত্যেকেই Wages Fixing Board formation এর জন্য recommend করেছিলেন। তাঁরা বলেছিলেন যে শ্রমিকদের যে মানান্য নতুনী তাতে তাদের চলে না। এই সেদিন পর্যন্ত হাজিরা প্রতি তারা বাধ মোট পাঁচ আনা পেতো—হাজিরা বাক্স চারি আনা ও dearness allowance বাধ এক আনা। সম্প্রতি Central Government যে হাজিরা ঠিক করে দিয়েছেন তাও চা বাগানের শ্রমিকদের পক্ষে যথেষ্ট নয়। Wages Fixing Board formation এর কথা বলছিলেন। জানি না কোন পদক্ষেপেট করেছেন—Central Government কিংবা Bengal Government, কিন্তু এ সম্পর্কে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের একটি কঠোর আবেদন বর্তমান নবন করি। চা বাগানের শ্রমিকদের এত segregate করে রাখার চেঁচা গন্তে ও তাদের ভিতর আজ দারুণ বিকোভ দেখা দিয়েছে। Civil Supply এর কুরাবহাদের দক্ষণ তাদের পেট ভরে যেতে দেওয়া হয় না। যা' রাখার বাধা হয়েছে তাতে তাদের আশ পেট ভরে না, যার ফলে চা বাগানের কৃষিরা বিস্ত্রাহী হয়ে উঠেছে এবং বাগানের দস্তপকদের উপর বেশ করে মার ধর ফুট করছে।

Mr. R. B. WHITEHEAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to move the cut motion standing in my name, but I would like to say a few words on the subject. Last August I laid stress on the absence from the budget of any provision for the expansion of the offices of either the Inspector of Factories or the Labour Commissioner. The appointment of 8 Assistant Labour Commissioners and 6 Labour Officers had been sanctioned long before, and although the Public Service Commission made their recommendations sometime ago, orders have not been passed for these appointments.

The Labour Commissioner is still, I believe, working with a staff of about 7 temporary officers who are acting as conciliators and 2 acting Deputy Labour Commissioners. The position today is in fact no better than it was last year. At that time the Hon'ble Minister in reply to general criticism stated that he realised Government had got to augment the staff and declared that the whole question was under consideration by Government, but we find that the estimates for the coming year do not include any proposals for additional staff for either the Labour Department or for the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

I would ask the Hon'ble Minister, Sir, if it is not a fact that the existing subordinate staff of the department are all on temporary or acting basis. This is naturally very unsettling for these officers, who have been working for 15 months or more on this unsatisfactory basis.

It must be obvious to you, Sir, that a staff of 7 or 8 Assistant Labour Commissioners is not nearly sufficient for the needs of the Province. The number of labour conciliators should be doubled or trebled if they are to be able to deal effectively with the number of labour disputes that are occurring. Last year, I laid stress on the need for decisive and speedy settlement of labour disputes, and the great importance in all disputes of the conciliation stage; conciliation must be of high calibre, on the spot, and able to effect a settlement before the dispute reaches the stage of a strike. You will remember, Sir, that at the time of the Posts and Telegraphs strike, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: "There should never be any need for such strikes in essential services and some automatic method should exist for settling all disputes impartially, swiftly and efficiently."

The Rowlands Committee stated, "We consider that labour problems will occupy a more prominent position in the business of Government than they have hitherto done and it is, therefore, necessary to build up without

delay a staff to deal with them which will be adequate in quantity, in status and in expert knowledge."

There is no indication in the Estimates that the importance of this Department is appreciated, nor do the Estimates include any proposals for increasing the staff of the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

In the estimates, "Labour" is still grouped with a number of other miscellaneous items under the head "Miscellaneous Departments" although the Hon'ble Minister last year, in answer to this criticism, stated that it would be considered, and he hoped "a favourable heading will be given hereafter".

The importance of a definite and settled procedure for the settlement of labour disputes does not yet appear to be appreciated by Government. If an illegal strike occurs, it should follow as a matter of course that the instigators and leaders of the strike should at once be prosecuted, and the Hon'ble Minister should refuse to have any dealings with the workers unless they go back to work. Instead of this, action is often not taken against the leaders of a strike, and, when it is taken, as in the case of the Calcutta Tramways dispute, only after the strike has been continuing for over 30 days. It should follow, also that when a dispute is referred to adjudication, negotiations are terminated, but what has too often happened is that, in spite of the adjudication order, attempts are made with the assistance of Government, to extract additional concessions from the employer. This is the way to jeopardise the whole adjudication procedure.

The Hon'ble Minister's statement on the Tramway dispute is an illustration of this point. The Hon'ble Minister emphasised that the dispute had been referred to adjudication and that the strike was therefore an illegal one, but he went on to claim that he always maintained an open door to the workers, and if only the workers go back to work he would intervene in their favour in spite of the adjudication order. What, I would ask, Sir, is the use of having an adjudication procedure if the Hon'ble Minister himself is prepared to go back on it and to promise concessions before the adjudication takes place? This is merely encouraging the workers to defy the adjudication order. We are glad, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister has since been adopting a stronger attitude, and it is for this reason that I have decided not to move my cut motion.

As I have stated, Sir, it is our opinion that Government must follow a settled and consistent procedure of conciliation and adjudication for the settlement of labour disputes and Government must have an adequate staff to ensure that this procedure will be effective. There is no doubt that the lack of it and the too frequent interventions by the Hon'ble Minister himself have encouraged workers to strike on the slightest pretext. Strikes are being used more and more as a general weapon of intimidation, accompanied by an increasing number of violent and cowardly attacks on managers by mobs of workers.

Even if it is admitted that workers have an inherent right to strike, that right should only be exercised as a last resort when all other efforts at settlement fail.

The ill-effects of strikes in general on the well-being of the country are apparent in, for example, the increasing loss of output of cotton cloth. Cloth production in Cotton Mills in 1946 was less than production in 1945 by nearly 1,000 million yards and this was mainly due to labour strikes.

Similarly, in the Jute Mills Industry, in 1945 a total of 33½ million man hours was lost on account of sporadic strikes which affected practically all the Mills in the membership of the Indian Jute Mills Association.

Increases in wages and in the general standard of living are dependent on increases in production, as Sir Stafford Cripps recently pointed out. If

Indian labour will increase its output per head then higher wages can be paid, but exactly the reverse is happening. Production is decreasing owing to irresponsible strikes and output per head is certainly not increasing.

The worker stands to lose more than the employer so long as production and industrial development are being retarded by labour unrest. The gains he secures by irresponsible strikes—if he secures any gains at all—are more than offset by rises in the cost of living owing to the fall in production. The worker can only secure real gains by increasing production and, to achieve this, what is needed is industrial peace.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to protect the *bustee* dwellers against evictions.

Sir, last time I had the opportunity to bring up this matter of *bustee* dwellers, and I never thought that I again should have to bring up this heart-rending plight of *bustee* dwellers, most of whom are workers.

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour has not given the slightest protection to the workers in their factories either by way of legislation for minimum wages or by way of improving their working conditions. Whenever the workers have in the last resort gone on strike for more wages or a decent standard of living, the Hon'ble Minister has been silent. It has been the same when *lathis* rained on the workers, or they have been shot down and section 144 has been clamped on them to destroy the working class movement for a better standard of living. But as far as giving protection to the *bustee* dwellers is concerned, the Hon'ble Minister has pleaded that the law stands in the way. But we find, Sir, that thousands and thousands of these workers who are living in the *bustees* from generation to generation—both tenants and small hut owners—are being thrown out of their huts. As far as I know, notices have been given to more than 40,000 such *bustee* dwellers to clear out altogether with their families. The Hon'ble Minister cannot do anything about them again in the name of law, but at the same time we find that when it is necessary for them to destroy the people's movement they carry out the dictates of the Governor or any other person in the Civil Service and the bureaucracy and give us ordinances—ordinance by the dozens, though when it is a question of giving protection to the workers we hear about law yet when the workers in the last resort go on strike we hear that it is an illegal strike and that it is out of order. Therefore, Sir, I shall not waste very much time in trying to convince the Labour Minister, but I would ask him to descend from his olympian heights in Writers' Buildings and sometimes to remember his past a bit and go and visit the workers in the *bustees*. I would appeal to the members, to the patriots of the Muslim League, to consider on what lines and in what way their Government is moving and to see that their Government has become a Government of surrender all along the line. I at least thought that, as far as *bustee* improvement goes at least for an outward show, something would have been done by Government for the last one year to bring life and happiness to the workers, but I find the Hon'ble Minister has failed completely and utterly and he will fail every time because his policy is a policy of surrender all along the line as I have said, and as long as he pursues this policy he cannot do any good to the *bustee* dwellers or workers in the *bustees*. Therefore, Sir, I say to him: Do not pursue the worker in this manner from the factory to his huts, to his lowly huts in the *bustees* where he has been living. At least if you cannot do any good to him, don't throw him out in the name of slum improvement and *bustee* improvement. And I would urge upon him to consider where these workers will go after they have been given notices—these 40,000—together with their families. When they ask the Hon'ble Minister, they are shown the lovely trees and star-lit nights; they are shown the beautiful blue sky and asked

to go and stay wherever they like under it but surely that is not the way to deal with the people's problems. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister again not to stay too long in Writers' Buildings but to come down sometimes and try and understand the problems of the people, the problems of the workers who are living by their thousands from generation after generation in these *bustees*.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, charges have been levelled against this department by my friends in the Opposition. I can understand the charges that have been levelled by Mr. Jyoti Bose, the member of the Communist party, but I can tell him that I have been personally in touch with the labour movement in Bengal. I have been trying to understand what the labour condition in Bengal is from my very student life. Everyone knows about the troubles and difficulties so far as the Labour Department is concerned. So long the administration was being carried on by a body which was not responsible to the people of the Province, but now that the Muslim League Government has been set up which is a popular Government it will be able to deal with the labour problem sympathetically.

Sir, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee has spoken about security of service, housing condition, better facilities, maternity benefit and many other things. I admit, Sir, the workers have not been given security of service but now there is an Act of the Central Legislature called Industrial Establishment (Standing Order) Act which provided for registration of conditions only under which a workman can be discharged. Besides, the Industrial Disputes Act is about to be passed in which some sort of security of service will be guaranteed to the labourers. That is the reason why we in Bengal are not thinking of drafting separate bills. We are awaiting the passage of the Bill to amend the Indian Trade Union Act through the Central Legislature, and I hope the passing of that Bill will meet the difficulties of labour so far as recognition of union of labour is concerned.

Then, Sir, I shall speak about the present problem arising out of strikes and settlement thereof. I can let the House know what is the duty of Government at the present moment, when employers and labour are quarrelling. Now, Sir, the duty of Government is to intervene and try conciliation methods. But when that method fails what is the duty of Government? Under the Defence of India Rules Government can issue and enforce adjudication order. I can tell the House that by taking recourse to adjudication order I have been able to secure settlement between labour and capitalists in very many cases, but where each party is adamant, Government has to refer the dispute to adjudication. Here a reference has been made to Tramway strike. The House knows very well that we tried a settlement by negotiation. The Company wanted time, but the labour leaders would not give any more time. I tried to intervene, but they would not listen. Even after the passing of the order of adjudication they did not listen and what could we do in the circumstances? I will let the House know that we are hoping that within a week's time, within a very short time, Calcutta will see trams running on its streets. (QUESTIONS: Would it be by military?) Whether by the military or the Tramway worker you will see then. The Tramway Company has agreed to issue a notice stating that an adjudication order has been given, and that they have already accepted that order, and they will bring out the tram. We have appealed and they will appeal to the workers to come and join their work. There will be no victimisation. There is an apprehension in the minds of the workers that possibly the adjudicator had no right to adjudicate on the questions of bonus and scales of pay. I shall let the House know that those cases have been adjudicated upon by the adjudicator. They have decided on the question of bonus and pay of workers. Therefore, I have given assurance to the workers that they will get good award from the adjudicator and that they will see that their demands will be fulfilled. I am asking

this House under the present circumstances how can Government function unless there is co-operation from both the labour as well as the capitalists,—no Government can function without co-operation from both sides whether it is the Government of my friend, Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy or of others, whoever is at the head of the administration. I shall let the House know that in one particular case, namely, the case of the Dunbar Cotton Mills, the mill authorities refused to accept the adjudication order, when I passed it. After the order was actually passed then the authorities came back and accepted the order of adjudication as a result of which the workers joined their work and the Dunbar Cotton Mill has been smoothly functioning since then. In that case we tried to compel the employer to see that the workers get their rightful share.

In this connection I should like to state that in 1946 the Labour Department dealt with 2,822 disputes as against 1,734 in 1945, and in 17 important cases I have personally dealt with the disputes, and I believe the disputes have been satisfactorily settled.

Now, Sir, there are other matters on which I should like to speak but I find that the time at my disposal is very short (at this stage the blue light was on) and I need five minutes more. I may inform the House that welfare centres have been started and they are now functioning.

So far as the question of a separate Department of Labour is concerned, I find that you that there have been difficulties in the way but we are hoping that in future years we will be able to expand the Department of Labour and we shall see that labour gets its due share in the shape of amenities and benefits.

Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, has spoken about tea garden labour. He has said that Rs. 28 is the maximum monthly pay that they are getting. I submit that it is not correct. It is about Rs. 42 under the new arrangement. They are also given two annas per adult as sickness allowance, twelve annas per day as maternity allowance and also other concessions in the form of subsidized rations and other things.

Then, Sir, I have also seen that some of the jute mills have provided for maternity facilities and arrangements for creches have also been made where children are also being fed. We visited some of the jute mills where I found that the workers are working satisfactorily. I am confident that in future there will be further improvements in these jute mills.

Sir, my friend, Mr. Whitehead has complained why the Labour Department should be only a section of the Miscellaneous Department and not an independent department by itself. I agree with him that this is not desirable. I shall try to see that by next year it is sanctioned by the Council of Ministers that Labour is constituted as an independent department, and I hope I may be able to announce in the near future that "Labour" will be placed in the budget, not under the head "Miscellaneous" but under a separate major head "Labour".

Then, Sir, there is one word that I must say about the *bustee* dwellers which has been referred to by Mr. Jyoti Basu. I know there is no protection by law of *bustee* dwellers at the present time but Government has in contemplation the passing of a Bill known as the "Thica Proja Bill" by which protection will be given to the *bustee* dwellers. I hope very shortly the Bill will be brought before this House and I hope that the Bill will be passed giving adequate protection to *bustee* dwellers in labour areas.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the motions.

MR. SPEAKER: In order to save time, I put the seven motions of Dr. Banerji together.

The seven motions of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs.100 were then put and lost.

The two motions of Mr. Debendra Nath Sen that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 were then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs. 15,49,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed that a sum of Rs. 15,49,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" was then put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous and 80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 3,57,48,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme".

Mr. ASHUTOSH MALLICK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant for the expenditure in connection with the maintenance and rehabilitation of riot victims in Calcutta and in other places.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the communal policy of the Government with regard to the expenditure in connection with the maintenance and rehabilitation of riot victims and Bihar refugees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এইচুট মোশ্যনএর বিষয় বস্তু লক্ষ্য মত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। কিন্তু তার আলোচনার জন্য নির্দিষ্ট সময় জতি অল্প। আলোচনার ফল যা হবে তা কাকনই অজানা নাই। আলোচনার প্রয়োজন একমাত্র কর্তব্যের কৈফিয়ৎ। আমাদের জতিয় প্রমাণের প্রমাণ মাত্র। এই বিষয়টিবিশিষ্ট আলোচনার প্রয়োজন থাকলেও উপায় নাই। পরকৃত্য প্রণেতা বিক্ষণপ্রায় অনুকরণে এর সাব সংগ্রহ করে দিক্গণন করা বত সময়ও পাওয়া যাবে না। তাই আমি সূত্রাকারে কিছু বলবার চেষ্টা করবো।

যি: শীকার, স্যার, এবার ধর্মহিংস্রতার নবপঙ্খিল বিভীষিকা শুধু কলিকাতায় নয়—ঢাকা, ত্রিপুরা, নোয়াখালী, বিহার, পান্ডা—ভারতের সখ্যত্র। সে বিভীষিকা আজ সংবাদপত্রের পাতাখণ্ডকে সীমানাক্রম, ইতিহাসের পৃথায় জলন্ত অন্ধরে লিপিবদ্ধ। কলিকাতার লাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামায় জতিয় পরিমাণ যে কত, তা শুভকরের আমজের বাহিরে, তাই ইয়ত্তা নাই। বাংলা সরকারের পুনর্বাসিত নীতির বিষয়ই আমার আলোচ্য বিষয়। বাংলা সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে Mr. N. M. Khanck পাঠিয়ে বিহার থেকে লোক আনলানী করা হয়েছে। এর পিছনে যে নীতি, সে কোন প্রকার জনহিতকর নীতি নয়। যদি কোন নীতি থাকে, তবে সেটা দুর্নীতি; কিংবা পাকিস্থানী নীতি। আমি বহী মহাশয়কে Bihar Governmentএর Press-note of December 25th & 29th পড়তে অনুরোধ করি। তাতে দেখা যাবে যে বিহার সরকার লাঙ্গা বিশুদ্ধ অন্ধরে পুনর্বাসিতের জন্য বিশেষ চেষ্টা করছেন। উপকৃত অন্ধলের জনসাধারণ বর্মান্তিক অনুতপ্ত। সেখানকার জনসাধারণ তাহাদের কৃতকর্মের শ্রাঘিচিতকল্পে যথা সাধা চেষ্টা করছেন। অথচ বাংলা সরকার তাকে শুধু উপেক্ষা চাকে দেখেন বা তাতে বাধা দিতেছেন। সেই জন্য বাংলা সরকারের অনুসৃত নীতিকে সূত্রাকারে বলতে হলে বলতে হয় "নাই কাজ তো খই ভাঙ"। কিংবা বিকল্পে খুড়ার গলা বাজা।

বাংলা দেশে বাংলা সরকারের লাঙ্গা বিশুদ্ধ লোকের সাহস ও পুনর্বাসিত পুতিটার কর্তব্য পালনের স্বযোগেব অভাব নাই। জনশ্রিয় বহী বঙালীর জনহিতকর কর্তব্য পালনের অধরন্ত অবসর ও অবকাশ তাঁরা পেয়েছেন। আমাদের বাংলা দেশের কোটি কোটি মানুষ পরোপরি অনু পাচ্ছেন না, এবং অভুক্ত পরীয়ে মানুষ অথরে বাহিরে

সকল বন্ধন শত্ৰুকে বাস্তব দিৱে সূৰ্য্যবাস্তৱ হ'লে, তা স্বৰ্ণেও বিহাৰ খেকে লোক আহলানী কৰে কৰ্ত্তব্য পালেম তৎপৰ হইহেঁচন। স্পষ্ট কথা, এটা যেন আপনাৰ শোৰাৰ ভাৱগা নেই শত্ৰুৰে ভাৰনাতেই অস্থিৰ। এই পিছলৈ নীতিটো অস্বাভাৱিক। মতান্তৰে এটা মন্ত্ৰিক বিকাৰ বমে অতুলি হৰে না। বিহাৰ খেকে লোক আহলানী কৰাতেই একমাত্ৰ আপত্তিৰ বিষয় নয়, তাৰে গ্ৰাসাচ্ছাদনেৰে জনা যে উপায় অবলম্বন কৰা হইহেঁচন সেইটাই আৰও আপত্তিজনক। তা ছাড়া প্ৰতিবেশী হিচাবে ভাৰা অস্বাভিহিত। শৈমিক সংবাদপত্ৰেৰে লাভালাভানো, ধৰণাকড় খৰৰ খেকে তা বেষ বোঝা যাৰে। বলা বাহুল্য হৰে বাংলার হিন্দুগৰিষ্ট, মুসলমানবিৰল জেনাসনুহে মুসলমান-অধ্যাখিষ্ক অকলে পৰিণত কৰাৰ বাস্তবতা আকাশ কুহুৰেৰ বাস্তবতা খেকে কোন অংশে বেষী নয়। সবকাৰেৰ অনুগ্ৰহপট্ট বিহানী অতিখিষ্কগকে হয়তো অশুভিষ্কসহল কৰে কালতিপাত কৰতে হৰে। তাৰে নিজেৰেৰে মনুদাৰ জলাখলি দিয়ে কয়েকজনৰ মন্ত্ৰিষ্ক বতায় রাখতে হৰে।

অৰ্থসচিব মহাশয় বতমান বংসবেৰ বাজেটে জৈনক কৰ্ত্তব্যবীকে বাজেটে পুস্তত কৰণ পুণালী ও টেক্স ধৰ্ম পুণালী গবেষণাৰ জনা ইংলণ্ড, আমেৰিকা, কানাডা, অষ্ট্ৰেলিয়া পাঠাৰাৰ বাবদাৰ জনা বায় বৰাদ কৰেহেঁচন। এটা একটা অপবায়। দেশেৰ বৰ্ত্তমান পৰিস্থিতিতে এৰ কোন প্ৰয়োজন আছে বলে মনে হয় না। বংস বাংলা দেশকে বাচতে হলে, সূৰ্য্যপুৰণে সাম্প্ৰায়িকতাৰ বিষ খালা খেকে অব্যাহতি লাভ কৰতে হৰে। আমাদেৰে রাষ্ট্ৰ জীবন নাশেৰে মাৰণাৰ অনাত্ৰ এবং ভিনুতৰ। সেটা পৰহস্ত-মিক্সিপ্ৰ সাম্প্ৰায়িকতা-বিষ্ক জটিলিত মনুদাৰ। টেক্স শক্তিশেলৰে চাইতে ভক্তিগেল আৰো মানাত্মক, আৰো ভীষণ। সেটা মৰ্মে গিয়ে প্ৰবেশ কৰে এবং তাৰ মান আৰানেৰে মাৰ। সেই শয়িষ্ক সমৰণ কৰিয়ে আমি বলতে চাই লোক পাঠিয়ে দেন যাৰা (আপনাদেৰে) ঈশ্বৰী তাৰেৰে কাচে, ইসলামেৰে মন্ত্ৰ ধৰ্মগুৰুৰ পুস্তানামে, পৰিত্ৰ ইসলাম ধৰ্মেৰে সুনাম বন্ধাৰ জনো—লোক পাঠিয়ে দেন আৰেৰে, ইজিপ্টে, তুৰকে, ইৰাণ, ইৰাকে। তাৰে নৰ জাগৰণেৰে মন্ত্ৰ শিক্কা কৰে আসৰাৰ জনো। ভাৰা নিয়ে আন্ত্ৰক তাৰে নৰ জাগৰণেৰে বাৰ্দ্ধ। ভাৰা নিয়ে আন্ত্ৰক তাৰে নৰ-জাগ্ৰত প্ৰাণেৰে উপাৰ আসান। সাম্প্ৰায়িক সন্ধীৰ্ণতা খেকে, অমানুষিক অসহিষ্কতা খেকে, মনুদাৰেৰে অবমাননা খেকে মানুহে মানুহে মিলনেৰে পথে মুক্তিৰ পথ জেনে আন্ত্ৰক। সে বাৰ্দ্ধাবাহক কৰিয়ে আন্ত্ৰক আমাদেৰে এই হতভাগা বাংলা দেশে। আৰ সেই মন্ত্ৰে অনুপ্ৰাণিত হোকে আমাদেৰে বাংলা দেশে। উপসংহাৰে আমাৰ শেষ কথা এক দেশেৰে কোলে মাৰেৰে জন, অস্ত্ৰেৰে বাহিৰে ভাৰা এক হোকে।

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the general policy of the Government in making provision for the Bihar refugees.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to make adequate provisions for the victims of riot-affected people in Noakhali and Tippera with a view to rehabilitating them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the refugees following the riots in Noakhali and Tippera were the persons who were directly affected and their number was nearly one lakh and a half. Sir, most of the refugees, a very large number of them, went to the Tripura State. We are grateful to the Tripura State for giving them shelter, but I regret to say that this Government have not rendered any substantial help to the refugees in spite of the representation made by the State. The number of refugees still remaining in the Tripura State are very large. I shall narrate the reasons why the refugees are not returning to their homes, one by one. The reasons are very clear and they are as follows:—first, want of security. This want of security is due to the failure of Government to make sufficient efforts by propaganda. Sir, I do not know what is the meaning of this Propaganda and Publicity Department of this Government. The Publicity Department should go to the riot-affected areas of Noakhali and Tippera and try to restore good

feeling between the Hindus and Muslims by Government propaganda. Mahatma Gandhi came to Noakhali in order to restore good feelings between the two communities, but this Government have not done anything though they have got a Publicity Department and a large sum of money is being spent for that Department. Failure of Government to take drastic steps against the ring leaders is another reason and the next is the failure of Government to make immediate searches with a view to recovery of looted articles. Then comes this Government's shilly-shallying position in the matter of delay in arresting persons and releasing them on bail though they are accused of most heinous offences, such as loot, arson and murder, and lastly this Government's policy of not imposing collective fines upon the people who committed such heinous offences. In Comilla the situation has deteriorated after Mr. Fazlul Huq has visited the place. You are aware that the situation in Comilla has deteriorated after the speech delivered by Mr. Fazlul Huq. One of the members of the Legislative Assembly has received a letter from no less a person than Mr. Satish Chandra Das Gupta stating that the condition in Comilla has deteriorated. Only yesterday we received a wire from the representative of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee from Noakhali that the situation has deteriorated to a great extent.

Sir, I will give some constructive suggestions to Government as to what is immediately needed. If these things are done, rehabilitation will be possible in Noakhali and Tippera. Speedy disposal of criminal cases after investigation and setting up of a Special Bench instead of referring the cases to the Sessions Court. This can be done by extending the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. Sir, it is useless to refer the cases to Sessions Courts, because there the cases are tried by jurors most of whom, as you know, are coming from a community who are really the aggressors. Then, Sir, economic and social boycott that is going on by the majority community upon the minority community must have to be combated by drastic methods.

Then, Sir, grant of Rs. 250 for housing per family must be increased. I can tell you, Sir, that persons who are affected in the districts of Noakhali and Tippera are not ordinary cultivators and they had got substantial houses most of which had tin-sheds. A grant of Rs. 250 only for housing per family is not sufficient for erecting even a cookshed now. Building materials, namely, corrugated iron sheets, wooden posts, and bamboos, etc., must be made available to them at a cheaper rate immediately before the rains set in.

Then, Sir, reorganisation grant to artisans amounting to Rs. 200 as a maximum should be increased. Implements of husbandry and tools for artisans are not available in the locality. These should be made available. Non-official relief societies should be allowed facilities and given permits to take and distribute articles to relief areas. I know of one society which intends to distribute some iron, etc., to the affected areas and they are trying to obtain permit for the last 15 days, but without any effect. Yarn should be supplied to fishermen and weavers at cheaper rates in adequate quantity.

Then, Sir, I would like to say that relief is necessary till the victims are re-settled in their ordinary avocations. Another thing which I would like to mention is that test relief work should be such as would suit the capacity of the victims. Most of the persons who have been affected seriously belong to the middle class. The test relief work begins in the shape of digging earth. These middle class people cannot dig earth. It is not possible for them to do that. Some test relief work which will be suited to their capacity should be opened.

Next I would say that cheap grain shops should be opened and should be kept open till the victims are re-settled in life. The price of rice in the affected areas has gone very high. In today's paper you have seen that the

price of rice in Noakhali and Tippera has gone up to Rs. 25. In some areas the price has gone as high as Rs. 27 to Rs. 30. So, I submit that cheap grain shops should be opened.

Then, Sir, cloth should be supplied to the affected persons at a cheaper rate. Agriculture and cattle loan should be given to be repaid in easy instalments of 10 years. We do not want any gratuitous loan in the shape of purchase of cattle. We want cattle loan to be given in easy instalments of 10 years without interest. The amount should be such as would enable them to purchase at least two heads of cattle. Cattle should be made available to them by importation from outside. Sir, I do not know whether you are aware that even though the persons who have been affected intend to purchase cattle, they cannot purchase cattle because the majority community have started boycotting the minority community.

Then comes fodder. It should be made available and sold at a cheaper rate. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is very important, because unless fodder be made available to the minority community, it is impossible for them to maintain cattle, because cattle would die of starvation for want of fodder. Aus seed should also be supplied at a cheaper rate to the cultivators. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that aus seeds were taken away when there was a riot and when the houses of the cultivators were raided.

Then, Sir, the educational institutions must be reconstructed at Government expense, and the students must receive an education grant for the purchase of books and this grant must continue till their guardians are rehabilitated. The schools affected by riot should have an additional grant for rehabilitation of the teachers. I know of many schools in the riot-affected areas of Noakhali and Tippera where the teachers have left; the teachers are not there and unless there is a rehabilitation grant for these schools besides the grant that they used to get—unless a new grant is given, it is impossible to rehabilitate the teachers.

Sir, I know of an area where persons affected by riots are not getting any relief. It is a village in Union Board No. 1, police-station Senbagh. Ramganj, Lakshnipur and Raipur are the police-stations which have been really most seriously affected. But there is an area in police-station Senbagh. In that area I know that one particular village Kalaitola has been seriously affected and people have petitioned to the District Magistrate, but they have not received any relief whatsoever.

Then, Sir, I want to speak a few words about—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is just five months ago when the incidents which shook Bengal and the rest of India took place in Noakhali and Tippera. It is indeed a matter of deep regret and humiliation that we should be standing here today and questioning the *bona fides* of the Government in dealing with their relief and rehabilitation policy. Time will not permit me to go into details but we have been shocked to read of the announcement that Government have decided to close down the relief camps in Calcutta as also in Noakhali and Tippera. During the last two days I have been in close touch with the inmates of the four relief camps which are run by Government in Calcutta and Howrah. There are today nearly about 1,500 people living in these four places, men, women and children of all classes and conditions of Hindu society. There are 45 of them who are suffering from small-pox and chicken-pox; 48 are suffering from other diseases; there are thirty-two women who are pregnant; there have been sixteen cases of delivery during the last fortnight or so. It is shocking to think that any civilised Government without enquiring into the details of the conditions of these people should decide from the Secretariat that they are to remove themselves from these camps tomorrow,

the 15th March. I understand an extension has been granted for about a fortnight, but that extension does not at all meet the case. A few weeks ago you may remember that by a subtle attempt which was not honest the Government withdrew the Ordinance on Noakhali and Tippera suddenly on the floor of the House. We suspected at that time that there was something deeper than a mere accidental withdrawal. Now it is clear that there was a diabolical conspiracy to continue the maladministration in Noakhali and Tippera so that there may be more sufferings inflicted on the sufferers who belong to the minority community. Why is it that these people are not going back to their homes? The reason is that in many cases they have no home to go back to. I have received fifty letters which have reached the inmates of the refugee camps of Calcutta and Howrah, and if you analyse these letters you will find that they disclose a horrible state of affairs in Noakhali and Chandpur which is not being allowed to be published because the Press is gagged under some sort of Ordinance or other. I have analysed these letters. What is the common feature in these letters? Who are the writers of these letters? Most of the writers are persons who were staying in these refugee camps but who went back to Noakhali and Chandpur to find out if they could take back their families there. Their homes have not been rebuilt. I ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to state what is the percentage of homes which have been rebuilt. It will not exceed 15 per cent. What is the extent of the doles which have been given? Further there is no sense of security in the minds of the sufferers. I have, Sir, analysed the position of two unions, and the facts are of a lamentable and disgraceful character. Then I shall tell you what is the intimation that has been sent by those people from Noakhali and Chandpur: "Do not come, and do not think of bringing women folk and your families to these areas". One letter says: Last night there was a loot in our locality: we had to run to our gardens for fear of life. All these letters have been received only within ten days. There are reports to the following effect:—

"Arson, loot and forcible seizure of property are going on. Muslims refuse to work for Hindus."

Sir, this agitation of boycott of the minority community is going on actively. In Dacca the Ordinance has been applied against 150 Hindus on the alleged ground that they advocated boycott of Muslims in Dacca. I ask the Ministry how many Muslims have been exterminated from Chandpur and Noakhali for advocating boycott of the minority community. Then in one letter it is said that only five days ago the police party had to open fire at a certain place: there had been outrages on women. Names have been given and incidents have been reported to the thanas. Stabbing and attacking the Hindus and other relief workers have been going on. Day-light robbery, intimidation and threats, especially by those who are bailed out—and almost all people who were arrested are now being bailed out—have been taking place. It is these people who have started this process of intimidation saying "unless you withdraw the cases which you have instituted against us, we shall see how you can live in this part of Bengal". Countercases against Hindus have been instituted. Only two days ago forcible prevention of Hindus to get into or get down from steamers took place. These incidents I have taken from the fifty letters written by individuals who are actually staying in those particular areas, taken at random.

Now contrast for a moment the state of affairs that is going on in Bihar. Mr. Suhrawardy is now entering the House. He always turns up a little bit too late. The Chief Minister has come today, and I am glad he has come when I am referring to the Bihar policy which has been criticised by Mr. Suhrawardy and other stalwarts of the Muslim League. You have given shelter to Bihar refugees in Bengal and you refuse to permit them to go back to Bihar because you feel that there is no proper sense of security in the minds of those refugees, but you compel Hindu refugees of Noakhali

and Chandpur to go back to their homes although there is no sense of security in their minds. You have said that a sense of security has been returning in Noakhali and Chandpur; but I ask, a sense of security in whose minds? Mr. Suhrawardy speaks as a Muslim Leaguer when he feels that a real sense of security does not exist in the minds of the members of the minority community of Bihar. Very well, Sir; but why not apply that same principle to the minority Hindus of Bengal who are suffering not on account of the activities of the Muslim League alone but also on account of the failure of Government to give protection to their lives and properties. Mr. Suhrawardy has issued a statement appealing for co-operation and also for coalition. I ask Mr. Suhrawardy—show your *bona fide* with regard to the way in which you propose to tackle the fate of thousands of Hindus made destitute on account of the criminal failure on the part of Government to maintain law and order. Accept this suggestion of ours—apply the same principle which Muslims are wanting to be applied to the Muslims of Bihar. Will Mr. Suhrawardy be prepared to say that he will accept it? I hope Mr. Suhrawardy will immediately withdraw the order for closing down these camps and hold a conference with the Opposition leaders and find out how best to rehabilitate the unfortunate citizens of this Province who have been denied their birthright. You must open centres in Noakhali and Chandpur where first male members should be requested to go and there should be speeded up the case of building of houses. It has been said that Government is unable to procure building materials. If Government finds it difficult to procure materials how much more difficult it will be for these unfortunate persons to get materials with the meagre money that you are giving them. Government should undertake first of all to erect the houses by their own contractors. Let the houses be erected first, and let the male members then go back. You must start relief and rehabilitation work with the help of non-Muslim officers in Noakhali and Chandpur. You have packed the locality with Muslim officers under the threat of the Muslim League and possible repercussions from the majority community. My last appeal to the Government is that if in a matter like this it is not possible for the Chief Minister and the Minister in charge of Relief and Rehabilitation to deal with the Hindu case sympathetically, then it will give rise to a tremendous agitation throughout the Province, and I can tell the Government that Government will not be able to close down easily the refugee camps and throw the refugees into the streets. How are you going to close down the refugee camps unless you make proper arrangement for taking them back to their own homes after having ensured the maintenance of security in those areas?

Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the negligence of the Government towards the riot affected fishermen of Faridganj police-station, district Tippera, and the desirability of ear-marking a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for their nets, boats and rehousing, etc.

Sir, I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the general policy of the relief and rehabilitation programme and the desirability of ear-marking a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs for Himechar *claka*.

Sir, I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to maintain and rehabilitate riot victims and refugees of Tippera district.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের দূরবন্দার কথা আমি এই Houseএ পূর্বেও নিবেদন করেছি। জমি না আমান voice গভর্নমেন্টের দ্বারা কতটুকু পর্য্যন্ত পেঁচেছে। আমার শ্রদ্ধেয় বন্ধু ডাঃ মুখার্জি ও মিঃ দত্ত এই Houseএ আমাদের ত্রিপুরা-নোয়াখালী জেলা সম্পর্কে অনেক কথা বলেছেন। কালোই আমি সংক্ষেপে মাত্র দু-একটি কথা বলবো। সেদিন আমাদের Leader শ্রীযুক্ত কিরণ গুপ্তার রায় মহাশয়ের বক্তৃতায় Hon'ble Chief Minister সাহেব বলেছিলেন এবং আশাস দিয়েছিলেন যে আমাদের বাংলা দেশে আর দুর্ভিক্ষ হবে না। কিন্তু আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি দুর্ভিক্ষের বারম্বার পূর্বকালে গর্জন করছে। কারণ, আমি অনুসন্ধান করে দেখলাম এখন ২৫০ টাকা থেকে ৩৮০ টাকা চাউলের মণ পূর্ণ হচ্ছে। আমি বলবো যে ত্রিপুরা জেলা deficit area, এই deficit areaতে গত সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গার ফলে বহু হিন্দুর জমি এখনও পতিত পড়ে আছে। প্রায় 75 per cent. জমি uncultivated রয়েছে। তিল, কলাই, মুগ, মরিচ ইত্যাদি ফসল আমাদের অঞ্চলে খুব বেশী হয়। সময়মত চাষ না হওয়ায় ফলে তা হচ্ছে না। এই অঞ্চল এখার পৌষ শান ও পাট চাষ হতে বঞ্চিত। কারণ তাদের লাঙ্গল নেই, বাঁজ নেই এবং চাষের গরু নেই। দাঙ্গার ফলে তারা সর্বস্বহারা। কোন কোন বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে কোন কোন লোককে কোশাল দেওয়া হয়েছিল। সেই কোশাল দিয়ে তারা জমি প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে ও গভর্নমেন্ট সময়মত Seed supply না করাতো সেই জমিতে কোন ফসল উৎপন্ন করতে পারেনি। সেই সমস্ত এখনও পতিত পড়ে আছে।

আমি একটা কথা নিবেদন করবো। বর্ধা হিন্দু শাসা নাকি নিজেরা করণও চামচাষ করে না—তারা জোতদার ও ভানুকদার, তারা আসল জমি চাষ করছে। মুসলমান সম্প্রদায় দাবা landless labourers—দাবা হিন্দুদের জমি চাষ করে পায়—নেতৃত্বাধীন ব্যক্তিদের প্রেরণাতে তাদের শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয়েছে—তোমরা হিন্দুর জমি চাষ করো না—হিন্দুর জমি বর্ধা করো না ইত্যাদি। কাজেই এইভাবে হিন্দু সম্প্রদায়ের লোক অতিশ্রুত হয় নাই, মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের যত landless labourerরাই শেষ পর্য্যন্ত অতিশ্রুত হয়েছে।

মৎস্যজীবীরা নদীর তীরেতে থাকে, জাল ও বোঁকা তাদের একমাত্র উপাধানেব অবলম্বন। তাদের জমি নাই—চাষ করে খেতে পারে না, এমন শিক্ষা নেই যে ঢাকরা করে খেতে পারে। আমি অনেকবার এই Houseএ এখানে বলেছি মৎস্যজীবীদের যে ক্রি দূরবন্দা, তাদের জন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। আমরা Oppositionএর লোক বলে আমাদের কথার প্রতি কোন বকর কর্পাত করা দরকার বলে আপনারা মনে করেন না। এই Houseএ গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে দু'জন সদস্য মৎস্যজীবী সম্প্রদায়ের আদায় বন্ধ হারান বাবু ও ভোলানাথ বিশাস, তাদের আমি challenge করছি তাঁরা সেখানে গিয়ে নিজের চক্ষে তাদের দূরবন্দা দেখে আসুন ও এর প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the deplorable attitude of the Government in connection with the works of relief and rehabilitation of riot victims of villages under police-stations Keranganj, Tegraon, Kapasia, Araihaaz in Dacca district; and of villages under police-stations Senbagh, Rangganj, Begamganj, Lakshmipur in Noakhali district; of villages in Tippera district and of other places.

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, যখন সশস্ত্র গুণ্ডার দল নির্বীহ গ্রামবাসীদের উপর আক্রমণ করে তাদের জীবনযাত্রা বিপর্য্যস্ত করেছিল সে সংবাদ আপনারা দেখেছিলেন। আপনারা বোধ হয় শুনেছেন ঢাকা জেলার গ্রামাঞ্চলে অস্ত্রস্ত: পক্ষে ২ হাজারের উপর বাড়ী ধ্বংস হয়েছে, প্রায় ২৫ হাজার লোক নিরাশ্রয় হয়ে পড়েছে। গুণ্ডারা কেবলমাত্র তাদের জিনিষপত্র লুট করেই ক্ষান্ত হয় নাই, তাদের হত্যা করে ঘরবাড়ী জালিয়ে দিয়েছে। যাঁরা বেঁচেছিল তাদেরও পথেব ভিক্স করছে। কিন্তু পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে গভর্নমেন্ট তাদের এইসব গুণ্ডার আক্রমণ হতে রক্ষার জন্য কোন আগ্রহ দেখান নাই। উদ্ধারের ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। তাই মনে হয় যদি বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি এদের উদ্ধার করতে না যেত তাদের সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের লোক অথবা হিন্দুবা নিশ্চিহ্ন হয়ে যেত। তারপর তাদের উদ্ধার করে এনে আশ্রয় কেন্দ্রে রেখে বেসরকারী লোকেরাই তাদের আহার্য ও বস্ত্রের ব্যবস্থা করেছিল, কিন্তু গভর্নমেন্টের সাহায্য তখন পর্য্যন্ত আসে নাই। তারপর গভর্নমেন্ট বা সাহায্য পাঠালেন তা অতি সামান্য, যা চাউল পাঠালেন তা খুব মিশান এবং যে reliefএর ব্যবস্থা করেছিলেন তাও অতি অল্প দিনের জন্য মাত্র। তারপর September মাসে কয়েকটি cheap grain shop খোলা হয়েছে, যাতে খুন্সি বিক্রী হ'ত। তাও November মাসে বন্ধ হয়ে

যায়। তাহাঁকে বেচে যাকবার জন্যে গড়-মোট আত্ম-কর্ষ্যই করেন নাই। আবার পূর্ণ-বর্তী কখনো বিঃদত্ত এবং ডাঃ মুখার্জি এ সম্বন্ধে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ করেছেন। গড়-মোটের অব্যবহার আত্ম-কর্ষ্যবাহী-ত্রিধার এই অবস্থা হয়েছে আর চাকরিও এই দুর্ব্যবহার কোন প্রতিকার হচ্ছে না। এই সেদিন আবার কাছে সংসদ এসেছে একজন হিন্দু বাড়ী হতে একজন হিন্দু মহিলাকে মুসলমান গুণ্ডা জোর করে লুট করে নিয়ে গিয়েছে। নারায়ণগঞ্জ মহকুমার অবস্থা অতি শোচনীয়। তাই মহী মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি তাঁরা দেশে শান্তি কিরিয়ে আনতে চান কিনা সেটা প্রকাশ্যভাবে ঘোষণা করুন। মাননীয় অর্থ-মন্ত্রীর মহাশয় বলেছিলেন বাজেট-হিস্ট্রি-মহাসভায় হবে না মুসলিম লীগের হবে, কিন্তু মুসলিম লীগের নীতি হিন্দু নিম্নাভ্যাস ক'থা কি না সে কথা বলেন নাই। যদি তাঁদের মাসে থাকে তবে প্রকাশ্যভাবে সে কথা বলেন।

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: On a point of information, Sir. Which cut motion is being discussed?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: He has read out the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion No. 35.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, গড়-মোট পুঃস্বল্পের কিতাবে সাহায্য করেছেন তার দুই-একটা উদাহরণ দিচ্ছি। এক ভায়পায় ৩ হাজার লোকের জন্য ৬০ খনি মৃত্তি, ৬০ খনি সাড়া ও ৪০ খনি লুপ্তি দেবার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছিল। এবং এক পরিবারের ৫ জন লোকের জন্য একখানি মৃত্তির বদল দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছিল। তাদের সর্বস্ব লুপ্তি নিয়েছে, ঘরবাড়ী পুড়ে গিয়েছে এবং তারা নিরাশ্রয় হয়ে পড়েছে তাদের শীতের প্রয়োজনে পরিবারের ৫টি লোকের জন্য মাত্র একটি মৃত্তি কয়লার ব্যবস্থা। (Shame, shame.) মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি অত্যন্তে আশোচনা করছি কিন্তু তাতে কোনই লাভ নাই যদি গড়-মোট বন্ধনানে তাদের পুঃ লাঘবের চেষ্টা না করেন। আমি মাননীয় মহী মহাশয়ের নিকটে নিবেদন করছি তিনি যেন স্মরণ রাখেন যে কুমার জাল হাল গরু হারিয়েছে, যে তাঁরী তাঁত হারিয়েছে, যে জেলের জাল গিয়েছে, শিল্পীর শিল্পসম্ম নষ্ট হয়ে গিয়েছে, বন্ধনানে তারা উপাভন করতে পারে এমন কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। গড়-মোট যেন তাদের উপাভন করে রাখার ব্যবস্থা করে দেন, তাদের বাসস্থানের ব্যবস্থা করে দেন। বাসস্থানের নামে যে চালানব তাঁরা তৈরী করেছেন যাতে ৫ জন লোকের ভাষণা হয় না। তাতে ২৫০০টি বিভিন্ন পরিবারের লোককে পাকতে দেওয়া হয়। এই ব্যবস্থা অতি ভয়না। এবং তাদের নিরাপত্তার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে যাতে পুনঃ পুনঃ তারা বিপদগ্রস্ত না হয়। ডাঃ শ্যামাশ্রম মুখার্জি ও এই কথা উল্লেখ করেছেন যে হিন্দু বিপদ হয়েচে কিন্তু বিলিফের কোন বশোবস্ত নাই।

আর একটা কথা বিলিফের অব্যবহার করে বিলিফের যে ব্যবস্থা গড়-মোট করেছেন তা ১৯৪১ সালে রামপুরা পাসায় বেকপ হয়েছিল প্রকৃত অত্যাচারিত জনগণের কাছে না পৌঁছে অত্যাচারবাই ভোগ করেছে। সুতরাং তাঁরা প্রকাশ করুন বিলিফের নামে এই অপব্যয় হচ্ছে কেন?

Mr. ISWAR DAS JALAN: May I have your permission, Sir, to move the motion standing in the name of Mr. Basantlal Murarka?

Mr. SPEAKER: What motion is that?

Mr. ISWAR DAS JALAN: It is No. 6.

Mr. SPEAKER: That motion has not been moved. You can speak generally.

Mr. ISWAR DAS JALAN: All right, Sir. I wish to draw the attention of Government to the requisition of the land belonging to the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society. As a matter of fact, Sir, so far as tuberculosis hospital is concerned, it requires only 50 acres of land, whereas Government is acquiring 10,000 bighas of land belonging to the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society. Therefore the rest of the land is being taken by Government for the purpose of residential and industrial purposes and not for the purpose of tuberculosis hospital. So far as the Society is concerned, it has been in existence for the last 60 years and it is a most important institution in the whole of India in which there are more than 3,000 cattle which are being protected there. It is increasing the milk supply and in these days when there is so much scarcity of milk Government ought to see that such an institution is not crippled. Then there are many other schemes for

development of cattle such as salvage of ~~any cows~~ which is being inaugurated by the Government of Bengal. As a matter of fact, Sir, I have got one letter from Mr. Kerr who is the ~~Chief~~ Veterinary Director of the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society that the Pinjrapole assists in the development of valuable milch cows in Calcutta and these valuable activities of the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society will come to a standstill if the whole of the land which is the land belonging to the Society and which is very important from the point of view of preservation of cattle in this Province is taken away by Government. Therefore, I would urge upon Government to consider most seriously how far they can give relief to the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society. It will be just like 'rob Peter to pay Paul'. You are injuring so far as the milk supply problem is concerned, and you are going to help others for residential and industrial purposes. So far as this institution is concerned, land is being taken away by Government simply because it is a Hindu institution. But I would ask Government to consider this point of view, namely, that it is not purely a Hindu institution; it is an institution which has in view the national interest of the Province of Bengal, which if developed on proper lines will be a great asset so far as this problem is concerned. I am quite positive that had it been an institution belonging to the majority community not an inch of this land would have been taken but so far as this institution is concerned, as I have stated just now, Government should not view it from any other angle than this that the institution serves the public of this Province. Sir, I understand that compensation which is being proposed by Government to be given is Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 per acre while Government proposes to settle it with people who want land for residential and industrial purposes at the rate of Rs. 8,000 per acre. Is it not profiteering?

Sir, these are considerations which should weigh with Government and I hope that Government will immediately consider them impartially and give relief to the Society.

Mr. FAZLUL KARIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের বন্ধু শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবু এর আলও অনেক স্বেচ্ছাশ্রম নেয়াশালী এবং ত্রিপুরার মুসলমানদের উপর শোষণোপ করছেন যে হিন্দুদের সঙ্গে ওঝানকার মুসলমানেরা co-operation করতে না; অথবা তাদের boycott করেছেন। এই কথা শুনে আমি অত্যন্ত দুঃখিত এবং আমি এ সম্বন্ধে তাদের সঙ্গে একমত হতে পারি না। আমার কিশিণ ওনারা হাটায় বিপোর্ট বাধেন না সত্য, এবং আর যদি তা রাখতেন তাহলে ঐক্য উজ্জ্বল করতেন না। যখন নেয়াশালী ও ত্রিপুরার riot শেষ হয়, তার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মুসলমানেরা হিন্দুদের বাড়ীঘর তৈরী করে দেবে ঠিক করে এবং অনেক জায়গায় হিন্দুদের বাড়ীঘর মুসলমানেরা তৈরী করেছে এবং নানাপ্রকারে তাদের সাহায্য দান করেছে। কিন্তু বাইরে থেকে হিন্দু volunteers ও অন্যান্য Leaders সাধানে যখন আগমন করে তখন সেখানকার অবস্থা সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত হয়ে পড়ে। মুসলমানদের একজন কাজে যায়, আর হিন্দুদের একজন ধানায় গিয়ে পুলিশ এনে সেই মুসলমানকে arrest করায় এবং তাদের মারধর দেয়। এই জাতীয় রিপোর্ট ও এই জাতীয় দরখাস্ত বহু আমাদের মুসলীম লীগের অফিসে আছে। তারপর হিন্দুরা তাদের পুত্ররিণীতে মাচ ধবতে নামিয়ে দেয়, আর একজন গিয়ে পুলিশ এনে তাদের arrest করায়। (A VOICE: অতি সাধু!) পুলিশ সব বিষয়ে হিন্দুদের পক্ষে সাহায্য করেছে। মুসলমানেরা মোটেই শোষী নয়। মুসলমানদের সব সময় হিন্দুদের পক্ষ অন্তর রয়েছে সব রকম সাহায্য করতে। গভর্ণ বোর্ডও চেষ্টা করেছে এবং স্থানীয় মুসলমানেরাও হিন্দুদের নানা পুকারে সাহায্য করতে চেষ্টা করেছে। এবং এখনও মুসলমানেরা হিন্দুদের জন্য নানা রকম চেষ্টা করছে। তারা হিন্দুদের সাথে সব রকম co-operation করেছে। কোন কোন জায়গায় ওড়র আছে যে মুসলমানেরা হিন্দুদের boycott করেছে। কিন্তু আমরা তদন্ত করে জানতে পেরেছি যে কোন রকম boycottই সেখানে মুসলমানেরা করছে নাই। (VOICE: হুঁ সত্য কথা! সব বানান জুধা।)

আমার অন্য এক বন্ধু বলেছেন যে হিন্দুরা কখনও ভবি চাষ করে না ও চাষ করতে তারা জানে না। পূর্বে যদি হিন্দুদের ভবি চাষ না হয়ে থাকে—এবার আমরা দেখে এসেছি সেই ভবি চাষ হয়েছে। আমি হিন্দু ডায়েরীর অনুসরণ করি, উঁরা যেন এই রকমভাবে উজ্জ্বল না করেন এবং এই রকম উজ্জ্বল করে হিন্দু-মুসলমানের বে co-operation চলছে দেখে তা যেন বন্ধ না করেন।

Mr. MA. AHMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের অনাবরণ থেকে ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায় বক্তৃতা পূর্ণ ও তদেহি এবং তাঁর বক্তৃতার যে অনর্থ ঘট হয়েছিল তা দেখেছি, কলিকাতার সেই Great Killing কিভাবে হয়েছিল। তারপর চাঁদপুরে উনি যখন একদিন গেলেন, তখন evacuees চাঁদপুরে জড়িত কৰতৈছিল। সেইদিন সন্ধ্যার পরে চাঁদপুরে হলো তিনি বক্তৃতা করলেন এক community বৃক্কদের সামনে। সেইদিন রাতি ১২ টার সময় দেখতে পেলাম সাধা চাঁদপুরে বঙ্গোপকূলবন্দর সাড়া। কয়েকটি বাড়ীতে মুসলমান পাড়ার হিন্দু ভাইকা আক্রমণ করে সেখানে একটি মুসলমানকে গুলী করে মেরে ফেললে। (A voice: ভাল গল্প!) ... জানি না বাবু শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায় সেদিন কি বক্তৃতা সেখানে দিয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু তার ফল দেখতে পেলাম—একজন মুসলমান গুলীতে মারা গেল এবং আর একজন মুসলমান আহত হ'ল। (Voices: Shame, shame) উনি বললেন বিলিফ সেখানে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে দেওয়া হয় নাই, আমি উনি আশ্চর্য হ'লাম। পরিকল্পিতভাবে আমি বলতে পারি চাঁদপুরে চাঁদপুরে যে সমস্ত হিন্দু evacuated ছিল তারা শুধু যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে কেবলমাত্র, তাড়াতাড়ি সেখানেকার হিন্দু ভাইকা তিন মাস পূর্বাচল চাপ দিলেন নাই। (Laughter and disturbances.) একথাও জানি সেখানে অনেক হিন্দু অফিসার ছিলেন যারা এই গোলমালের পূর্বে তাঁদের পরিবারকে চাঁদপুরে রাখতেন না, তারা এই সমস্ত গোলমালের সময় চাঁদপুরে family এনে সমস্ত পরিবারকে evacuate centre এ নিয়ে নিয়ে রাখাযাতে আরত কলেন এবং সমস্ত পরিবারের ঝাণ্ডা সেখানে থেকে চানিয়েছেন।

(Voices: Shame, shame, noises.)

(A voice: বলতে লজ্জা হওয়া উচিত ছিল।)

তারপর উনারা বললেন যে house grant মাত্র ২০০ টাকা করে দেওয়া হচ্ছে। কিন্তু আপনারা তুলে যাচ্ছেন আমাদের গভর্নমেন্ট টাকা অপব্যব করছেন, house grant আছে, utensils grant আছে ইত্যাদি এই বকম বিভিন্ন খাতে seven to eight hundred rupees grant দেওয়া হচ্ছে। এবং অন্যান্য বিষয়ে সবটুকু ১,৬০০ টাকার benefit তারা পাচ্ছে।

তারপর হ্রিপুকা থেকে গোষ্ঠী মহাশয় যাবার পূর্বে বললেন যে হ্রিপুকা ও চাঁদপুরের হিন্দু-মুসলমান সকলে বেশ ভালভাবে ও শান্তিপূর্ণ ভাবে আছে ও বসবাস করছে।

তারপর যদি আজ গভর্নমেন্ট অফিস দিয়ে থাকেন সমস্ত evacuees যা যে খার বাড়ী ও গ্রামে চলে যাবে, সেটা অনায়াস করা চলে না।

আজ মোম্বাইতে কি হচ্ছে? শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবু যদি কলকাতায় বসে না থেকে সেখানে একবার যেতেন, তাহলে দুখতে পারতেন কিভাবে কোথায় কি হচ্ছে।

(Noise and disturbances.)

(At this stage Mr. Majibar Rahman rose to speak.)

MR. SPEAKER: You are late today as you were the other day. So I have cut out six minutes from your time and given it to others. You can speak for four minutes.

MR. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, I will take only one minute of your time.

MR. SPEAKER: In that case after Mr. Mridha has spoken for a minute, Mr. Majibar Rahman can speak for three minutes.

MR. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, I do not profess to know many things that have been happening in Bengal of late. But all that I have heard reminds me of a Persian couplet.

دو شخصى درآمد ز هندوستان - یی در دزد باشد دیگر باسایل

It means that two persons started from Hindusthan towards the west. One of them offered his services as a gate-keeper and the other engaged himself as a thief. You know what that thief did in that land and what help his friend rendered to him. My friends are making games. I hope my friends opposite will take lessons from this and disabuse their mind of all

corrupt thoughts: They must have known what their co-religionists have been so long doing. If they do so, it will help the administration to a great extent and also help in removing the sufferings of people wherever and to whichever community they may belong.

Sir, this is the sermon I offer to my friends opposite.

Mr. MAJIBUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের Opposition এর বক্তা: শ্যামা-প্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায়ের বক্তৃতা শুনে অত্যন্ত আশ্চর্যান্বিত হ'লাম। তিনি বলেছেন যে নোয়াখালীতে হিন্দুদের প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ থেকে কোন প্রকার রিলিফ দেওয়া হয় নাই। একথা সত্যের সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত। (A VOICE : তিনি একথা বলেন নাই, আপনি ইংরাজী বোঝেন না।) নোয়াখালীতে এক বাপের চারটি ছেলে এক বাড়ীতে একত্রে বাস করতো—তত্পরি যে বিধা মেয়ে একান্নে থাকতো, তাদের এক একটি পরিবার ধরে পৃথকভাবে সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়েছিল। রিলিফের কাজের জন্য যারা নোয়াখালীতে গিয়েছিল, হিন্দু নিশান, কংগ্রেস, মহাত্মা গান্ধী থেকে স্মারক করে ২০২৫টা Organisation সকলকে যেভাবে আতিথ্য মাননীয় সারয়েন্স সাহেব দেখিয়েছেন, সেটা নানা ঝংকার সকলে অবগত আছেন। (Hear, hear.) তার প্রতিশ্রুতি আজ তা: শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখো-পাধ্যায়ের মুখ থেকে আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী গ্রহণ করুন। বাস্তবিক নোয়াখালীতে যা হয়নি, তিনি তাতে মিথ্যা আরোপ করে সারা দুনিয়াকে উত্তেজিত করেছেন। আমরা দেখেছি গভর্ণমেন্ট তা: শ্যামাপ্রসাদের হিন্দু ভাইদের জন্য নোয়াখালীতে সরকারী তহবিল থেকে যেন একটা জুয়াফড়ন্তের মামলা করে দিয়েছেন। নোয়াখালীতে আরও একটি ঘটনার বিষয় শুনে আপনারা আশ্চর্যান্বিত হবেন। নোয়াখালীতে যখন এই ঘটনা হয়, তার অব্য-বহিত পরে জেলা মুসলিম লীগের সভাপতি ও আমাদের আমি Relief work করবার জন্য প্রস্তুত হয়েছিলাম। তা: শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখোপাধ্যায় নোয়াখালীতে গিয়েছিলেন, তাঁর সঙ্গে এ বিষয়ে আমরা আলোচনা করেছিলাম। কিন্তু তিনি মুসলিম লীগ বা মুসলমানদের কাছ থেকে কোন সাহায্য গ্রহণ করতে অস্বীকার করেন। (Shame, shame.) তাঁর মুখের উপর বলছি—জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট ও আমাদের মাননীয় গোফরাণ সাহেবের মোকালো আলাচনা করেছি ও বলেছি যে হিন্দুদের নিরাপত্তার সমস্ত ভাব আমরা নেব। কিন্তু তা: শ্যামাপ্রসাদ ও আমাদের কংগ্রেসী বন্ধুরা তা নিতে অস্বীকার করেছিলেন। (Shame, shame.)

(Noise and disturbances.)

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY : এইবার বোঝা গিয়েছে কেন নোয়াখালীতে এই সব ব্যাপার হয়েছে।

(Voices: Sit down, sit down.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, deeply as I sympathise with the embittered feelings of my friends opposite, I would not like them to regard me or Government as being arrayed against them because I am unable to agree to all that they have stated.

Sir, before I proceed further, I would like to dispose of the reference to Bihar in the beginning. I consider it almost blasphemous to link Noakhali and Bihar in the same breath. They are not in any way in the same street. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Noakhali is far worse than Bihar.) If anybody makes a statement like that—Noakhali is far worse than Bihar—I am afraid, he puts himself out of court and out of the ranks of reasonable human beings. The terror aroused in Bihar is 100,000 times more severe than that aroused by the incidents at Noakhali and Tippera. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Question.) Mr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has always told me that when I adopt the attitude that refugees should not go back to Bihar because they have no sense of security, I should apply the same meter to refugees of Noakhali and Tippera. Sir, he has left out one very important word which is implicit in the statement and that is, a "justifiable" sense of security. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: In whose opinion?)

I do not wish to refer to what steps the Government of Bihar have taken or have not taken in order to engender a justifiable sense of security amongst the Muslim refugees. It would not be proper on the part of one Government to refer to the conduct of another. I will, therefore, confine myself to such steps as the Bengal Government have taken to ensure a sense of security.

Sir, immediately after the incident, the whole place was flooded with troops and there was a round-up of parties. In Noakhali and Tippera the police and the troops belonged mostly to the persuasion of the minority community and they took very adequate steps—the Muslims consider, more than adequate steps—to deal with the situation. Persons were arrested wholesale on first information reports which were manufactured in refugee camps and which gave a long list of names of the best class of Muslims in a locality. All these things went on, Sir, because the persons at that moment who were working out the law were not working in accordance with the orders of Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I rise on a point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There cannot be a point of order now.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister entitled to refer to *sub judice* cases. The Hon'ble Minister said that these cases were manufactured in the refugee camps. He cannot refer to such cases as being manufactured in the refugee camps.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: That will certainly prejudice the trial. He cannot say that these cases were manufactured in refugee camps.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not referred to any particular case.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: He has stated that the cases which are pending before the courts—

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I did not say the cases pending before the courts.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think he has said the cases which are pending before the courts.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: All the cases are pending before the courts.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have not said that these cases were pending before the courts. I said what actually happened after the occurrence and I did not refer to any specific first information report. I know many things about the honourable member's volunteers and his volunteers have done things which ought to bring him shame. I am trying my level best to place an objective picture of the situation and I wish to be as sympathetic to the Opposition as I can and I hope they will bear with me in what I am going to state.

After this, when the Hindus could see that the Government was taking action for their security, they started trickling back to the areas. Government passed ordinances for the purpose of acting against those persons who were well-known hooligans. Government passed the Noakhali and Tippera Harvesting Ordinance for the purpose of helping those Hindus who had left the locality and who felt they were unable to go back and harvest their crops. Thereafter, Sir, Government started relief measures. Some of us went round there and in no uncertain terms we condemned the action of those Muslims who had risen against the Hindus. The reverberations of our condemnation are still to be found in our newspapers. We held vast meetings and at those meetings we took a guarantee from the Muslims that if the Hindus came back, they would look after them, they would protect them and that they would see that the hooligans and marauders did not oppress them. At meetings which I addressed and which, I say without exaggeration, were attended by lakhs and lakhs of Muslims, not only did they say that they would look after the Hindus when they came back but

they requested me to convey to the Hindus that they might come back and that they were prepared to guarantee their safety. Unfortunately, Sir, those guarantees were not accepted. Peace Committees were appointed by us but they did not function. What took place again was that instead of trying to bring about peace and harmony and a sense of security, cases continued to be manufactured (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That shows your mentality) against the best class of Muslims, although I can point out that it has been admitted and I heard with my own ears persons saying that many Hindus were given shelter and that many Hindus were protected by the best class of Mussalmans. Sir, petitions were filed against the top-class Mussalmans all over the locality.

It is very unfortunate that this has taken place. I will only implore my friends opposite to go into this question and to try to rehabilitate not merely the physical conditions of those persons who have been affected in those places but also their moral conditions. I want them to go—I am prepared to send some from this side of the House with them—and I think they should go round and implore both the Hindus and Muslims to live together as brothers.

Sir, it is not a point of debate but the presence of Mahatma Gandhi in that area has done greatly to encourage the Hindus to return. Government granted him every facility. He is a man about whom whatever may be said regarding his political views, however much we may differ from him, he is a person who carries the greatest possible prestige in India. And when he went there, we gave him every possible facility. Whatever he desired we gave him and we tried to see that his work was not hampered in any way. I think, Sir, Government has done whatever it could in order to re-establish a sense of security. If a complete sense of security has not been established, I am still prepared to sit with my friends opposite and see that steps might be taken, so that Hindus may go back to their homes. (A voice: Withdraw the volunteers.) This is a matter which undoubtedly my friends opposite are bound to consider when we should sit round and see what should be done for the purpose of rehabilitation, for the purpose of establishing moral as well as physical rehabilitation of the affected people. If it is a question of assistance to the people whose lives have been uprooted, we shall have to consider also what the Muslim grievances are in that regard.

Sir, it has been said that the place has been packed up with Muslim Officers and that the relief is in the hands of a Muslim Officer. It is true that one of the mainsprings of relief in Noakhali is in the hands of a Muslim officer. But if you will look at the records of the officer, you will find that he has done everything possible and has even gone out of his way to give relief to the Hindus. Even where a Muslim was found starving at his doorstep, the Muslim officer had denied him relief as he considered it his duty to spend the money placed at his disposal for giving relief to the Hindus. Simply because an officer is a Muslim, it does not mean that he is not sympathetic towards the Hindus and that he is not doing his duty. As a matter of fact he has done his duty very carefully always keeping in mind that he being a Muslim officer may not be blamed in any way and therefore he went out of his way to deny relief to a Muslim. (MR. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What about the Superintendent of Police?)

My friends have stated about economic and social boycott. If any such thing exists, it is extremely unfortunate and it should be our duty, the duty of the majority community whose representatives are sitting here, to see that economic and social boycott, if any still persists, is lifted. Surely it is not a matter that we would like to see perpetuated but I would like only to point out to the House that when an incident like this does take place and when the feelings are exasperated by what may be called revengefulness which follows in its wake, it is very difficult to expect that everybody should immediately become a saint. In Calcutta itself, Sir, is Dr. Syamaprasad

Mookerjee aware that the Hindu merchants of Amratala have boycotted the Muslim cart-owners although from time immemorial they have been permitted to shift goods from one place to another? They have instead brought in Hindu cartmen. Is he aware also that when the Muslim merchants in Jagannath Ghat wanted to give custom to these Muslim cart-owners, they were prevented by the Hindu cartmen? But until now there has been no riot over this. As he asks me to see that economic and social boycott is lifted from Noakhali and Tippera, I would also at the same time request him to see that the economic and social boycott against the Muslims is lifted from Calcutta. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Have not the Muslims behaved equally in Calcutta?) Where has social and economic boycott been carried out by the Muslims in Calcutta? The Muslim merchants are giving their goods to the Hindu cartmen. Where have the Muslim mill-owners thrown out their Hindu employees? Do you want to hear where the Hindu mill-owners have thrown out Muslim employees? I hope you will not exasperate me further, because this is a matter which has to be dealt with calmly and coolly. We are trying to do our level best for those unfortunates who have suffered on account of these communal incidents.

Sir, some honourable members have pleaded for an increase in rehabilitation grants. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: What about closing of camps?) I will come to it later on. I do not know to what extent the statement made by my friend Mr. Majibar Rahman is justified. That is a view which he has expressed and which, I know, is very largely held by the Muslims of Noakhali in particular. They have time and again approached me to intervene and to see that these grants are not given five times to the same family. I have not, Sir, intervened in that behalf, because I want to leave it to the discretion of the local officers and I do not desire in the matter of grants for relief to step in and try to curtail relief. It has always been the policy of Government that we should not step in in that matter.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Sir, may I have some more time? I want to have 7 or 8 minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In the matter of grants apart from Rs. 250 per family, we have increased that to Rs. 350 per family in cases where it is justified. We have also allowed a loan of Rs. 250 in deserving cases per family for house building purposes and the maximum period for repayment of this loan of Rs. 250 is ten years. These loans are also given to the recipients of the free grants mentioned above in cases where free grants do not prove sufficient for house building purposes and if the recipients can furnish adequate security to cover the loan.

Then, Sir, free grants not exceeding Rs. 200 in each case are granted to small traders and artisans who have lost their means of livelihood as a result of communal disturbances. To enable them to resume their respective vocations grants at higher rates may also be granted with the approval of Government. Grants are given to needy persons for purchase of lost utensils. Loans are also given under the Agricultural Loans Act. Cattle purchase loan up to Rs. 350 for individual borrower in the districts of Noakhali and Tippera, to be repaid in easy instalments bearing interest at 6½ per cent., has been given.

Then, Sir, replacement of books of the students which have been destroyed by rioters has been made and everything is being done by Government to give—

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: On paper.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, all this is being actually given, and it is for you to come and recognise that fact. It is a very great pity that any one holds the view that it is being given on paper. You contribute that way to the spirit of hopelessness and want of confidence which has been so sedulously propagated by a large number of persons who have flooded these places. It was reported by our officers that indeed there was a time when there were more visitors for giving relief than there were persons seeking relief.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Like Bihar!

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I verily believe that the situation in Tippera and Noakhali has assumed normal proportions and that the refugees now have no justification whatsoever for staying out. I know that there are still camps maintained, for instance, at Sealdah. Camps or institutions are there for the purpose of giving relief to those who are not even forthcoming. At the present moment there are institutions that thrive on relief work and they would like this relief to go on so that they may be able to say "we are still continuing to give relief". What is the purpose underlying it, it is not for me to say. Whether it is political or financial I do not know, but unfortunately this is the situation. I verily believe that Government had done enough and the people ought to go back. Now there is no justification for their staying out and as a matter of fact most of them have gone back. When most of the refugees have gone back and are living in their respective areas and are in safety, and I hope they will continue to live in harmony, what justification is there for the remnants of the refugees still to stay out and to say "I am suffering from want of confidence and therefore I shall not go back". It is for this reason that Government passed orders for closing down the refugee camps. I feel, however, that sudden closing down of the refugee camps may be harsh. I would, therefore, instead of taking any very drastic action in respect of them, still continue to maintain them for some time longer. In the meantime I would like to sit with my friends opposite for the purpose of finding ways and means by which these people could go back to their areas. But I do implore my friends opposite that they should try their best to see that these people go back and we may not have to take the drastic and unpleasant step of closing down the refugee camps. I do not want to put a certain number of persons out in the streets. I do not want to hand them over to persons who may be able to utilise them for political purposes.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: As you are doing with Bihar refugees!

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Please leave Bihar refugees out. It is blasphemous to talk about Noakhali in the same breath with Bihar. What have we not done for the purpose of establishing confidence? Go and see what they have done in Bihar. You will hear when Mahatma Gandhi comes back from Bihar what Bihar has done for the refugees.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTAPADHYAYA: You have no business to think of Bihar. What you are saying is not true. Your Muslim League policy was responsible for the instigation of the people of Bihar, but still relief is given there not on communal basis. (Loud noise.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I wish to say once more that our local officers who have been dealing with the situation are definitely of opinion that the situation has improved sufficiently for the refugees to return home. But, as I have stated, I do not want my friends opposite to have any doubts in that direction or to go away with a bitter feeling because I do and every one does—I can tell you that in spite of what has been stated here and they have said so in reference to the unfounded charges which have been levelled by some honourable members opposite—everybody here does sympathise with the unfortunate persons who had to leave

Noakhali and Tippera. Therefore, Sir, as I do not want that my friends opposite should go from here with a bitter feeling, I am prepared to sit down with them and discuss the matter further.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, may I put one question to the Hon'ble Chief Minister? I want to ask him whether he is prepared to state that he will not close down the refugee camps till we meet in a conference.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have already said that.

The motion of Mr. Ashutosh Mallick that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

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The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharyya that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogendra Chandra Das that the demand of Rs. 3,57,48,000 for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

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The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 3,57,48,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "57—Miscellaneous" and "80A—Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8.25 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 15th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 15th March, 1947, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 198 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

(When starred question No. 159 was called out, no reply was forthcoming.)

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: On a point of order, Sir, as the Hon'ble Minister is absent, the question might be held over.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, may I reply to this question?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Parliamentary Secretary can reply.

Purchase of the Calcutta and District Consolidated Electric Licence, 1946, by Government.

***159. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in accordance with the agreement reached in 1945 between the Government and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation about the nationalization of the concern, it has been decided to exercise the option to purchase the Electric Supply Corporation in 1950?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the total amount that the Government will have to pay to the Corporation and how it has been estimated?

(c) How does the Government propose to run it after it has been taken over, whether directly under the Government or with the help of a private Board?

(d) If the latter, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give some idea of the nature and constitution of the proposed Board?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (a) It has been decided that the option of purchase of the Calcutta and District Consolidated Electric Licence, 1946, should be exercised on 1st January, 1950, and that the necessary financial implications arising therefrom be examined.

(b) The purchase price will be fixed in accordance with clause 10(2) of the Calcutta and District Consolidated Electric Licence, 1946, a copy of which is placed on the Library Table. The total amount which Government will have to pay cannot now be estimated. It will depend upon the prices prevailing at the time of purchase.

(c) The intention is to run the undertaking through an Electricity Supply Board. Legislation for the constitution of such Boards by Provincial Governments has been undertaken by the Central Government.

(d) The nature and constitution of the Board will be in accordance with the provisions of the Legislation referred to. The relevant provisions are as follows:—

The Board shall consist of not less than four and not more than seven members, of whom at least three shall be full-time members.

Of the full-time members, one (who shall be the Chairman of the Board) shall be a qualified engineer, experienced in administrative and business methods, one shall be an experienced electrical engineer and one shall be experienced in accounting and financial matters.

The part-time members shall be appointed after consultation with such representatives or bodies representative of the following interests as the Provincial Government thinks fit, that is to say, Local Self-Government, Electricity, Commerce, Industry, Transport, Agriculture and Labour.

A person shall be disqualified for being appointed or being a member of the Board if he is, or within the 12 months last preceding has been, a member of any Legislature in India.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the Government does not contemplate to have their own legislation regarding the formation of the Board?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because it has been sanctioned by the Central Government.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why a member of the Legislature is thought to be disqualified under the said Act?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice for that.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Board will be constituted in the light of the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: If it is an expert Board, they do not come in.

Khan Bahadur SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if all the members will be appointed by the Government?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.98,49,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements".

Miss BINA DAS: Mrs. Ashadatta Sen is absent. I would like to move the motion standing in her name.

I beg to move that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of establishing a permanent Special Jail for women convicts.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, যদিও আমি কলিকাতা ভেন্যুয়েল Women's Constituencyর মনোনীত প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে এখানে এসেছি তথাপি আমি আমার সবচেয়ে বড় কর্তব্য বলে মনে করি তাদের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করা—যাদের ডেটি দেবার কোন অধিকার নেই, যাদের কাস্ট জার্মান প্রাচীর অস্থানালের বাইরে এসে পৌঁছাতে পারে না—বাঙালী দেশের সেই বলিনী নারীদের। আমার জীবনের জীবনিন তাদের সাথেই কেটেছে, তাদের সুখ-দুঃখের সহিত আমার হৃদয় পরিচয়।

আজকে আমার যা আলোচ্য বিষয় সেটা হচ্ছে মেয়েদের জন্য একটি permanent Special জেল স্থাপন করা। আমরা এ অভাব অনেকদিন হতেই অনুভব করছি। জেলের মধ্যে মহিলারা যেখানে থাকে সে স্থানে তাদের পক্ষে স্বাস্থ্যের দিক দিয়ে, নৈতিক দিক দিয়ে এবং সকল দিক দিয়ে অত্যন্ত অসুবিধাজনক। যদিও জেলে মেয়েদের special yardএ রাখা হয় কিন্তু District বা Central জেলের কোন মহিলা yardএই স্থান সন্তুলান হয় না। Undertrial মহিলা prisonerদের যেভাবে জেলে একটি ঘরে গোপা করে রাখা হয় আমার মনে হয় তার চেয়ে চিড়িয়াখানায় পশুদেরও ভালভাবে থাকবার ব্যবস্থা আছে। তাই আমার মনে হয় মহিলাদের Special জেলের ব্যবস্থা করলে এই সব অসুবিধা দূরীভূত হতে পারে। আগে অনেক সময় মনে করতাম সভ্যসভাই স্থানের অভাবটা বড় ব্যাপার নয়। অনেক সময় বলেছি বন্ধনের রজ্জুটা কয় হাত লম্বা হবে কি কয় হাত ছোট হবে তাতে কি আসে যায়। কিন্তু নিজেরা জেলে গিয়ে বুঝছি সভ্যসভাই তাতে বেশ বানিকটা আসে যায়। কারণ Presidency জেলের Female yardএর একটু বাইরে গেলেই মনে হয় “পুখিরাটা কত বড়।” কিন্তু ছোট একটি উঠানের মধ্যে আসানীদের দাঁধাদিন ধরে রেখে যে বকম অমানুষিক অত্যাচার করা হয় তা অবর্ণনীয়। তাছাড়া জেল লোকের আমার যে তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা আছে তাতে আমার মনে হয় আর একটা দিক চিন্তা করলেও মেয়েদের জন্য Special জেলের বন্দোবস্ত করা একান্ত কর্তব্য। জেলের জেলার থেকে উদ্ধৃত্তন সব পুরুষ কর্মচারীর হাতে এতগুলি নারীর দায়িত্ব ছেড়ে দেওয়া আমি অনায়াস মনে করি। সেইজন্য একটা জেলের আলাশ বন্দোবস্ত করে শিক্ষিতা মহিলাদের হাতে এর ভার দিলে অত্যন্ত ক্ষিভুতা উপকার করা যেতে পারে। এদেশে তো উচ্চ শিক্ষিতা নারীর অভাব নাই। এদেশে একটা পুখা আছে যে মেয়েদের অত্যন্ত capital punishment দেওয়া হয় না কিন্তু life transportation হতে পারে। কিন্তু আমার মনে হয় এশান্তি ফাঁসীর চেয়ে অনেক বেশী। Life transportationএ তাদের যেভাবে রাখা হয় তাতে তাদের অধঃপতনের পক্ষেই ঠেলে দেওয়া হয়। গ্রাম্য বালিবাবা প্রযোচনায় পড়ে অনেক সময় আইনের চক্রে গুরুতর অপরাধে অপরাধী হয় এবং তাহুল জেলে এনে যে পাবিশাস্ট্রিক আবহাওয়ার মধ্যে রেখে দেওয়া হয় তাতে তারা যখন জেলে হতে নাও হতে পারে তখন তাদের অবনতির লক্ষণ সহজেই চোখে পড়ে। এইজন্য আমি জেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করলেও বহুপক্ষকে অনুবোধ করছি। এবং আরও অনুবোধ করছি তা যদি না পাবেন তাহলে যেন মেয়েদের life transportationএর ব্যবস্থা না করে একবারে ফাঁসীর ব্যবস্থাই করা হয়।

বাংলাদেশে মহিলা জেল Superintendent হবার মত উচ্চশিক্ষিতা নারীর অভাব নাই; কাজেই মেয়েদের জন্য আলাশ জেল করে তার তালুক ভার এবং তাদের শিক্ষার ভার মেয়েদের হাতে ছেড়ে দেবার জন্য আমি বিশেষ করে দাবী করছি।

জেলে যে সমস্ত মেয়ে যেটন থাকে তারা সকলেই অত্যন্ত নিম্ন শ্রেণীর, শিক্ষা শীল তাদের মোটেই নাই; তাছাড়া বঙ্গিনীদের ডাবা মাদাম বটেই মনে করেন না। Presidency জেলে যে যেটন আছে জেলে আসানীদের হাসা সে পা পয়সাত টিপিয়ে নেয় এবং বঙ্গিনীদের মধ্যে গোসানোদার যেন একটা competition চলে।

গভণ মেনটী অনেক সময় বলে থাকেন যে জেলে শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু পুখুরে বিষম তার কোন লক্ষণই জেলে দেখা যায় না। তাই আমার মনে হয় জেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার বন্দোবস্ত করলে বহু নারীকে পাপের পথ থেকে, অধঃপতনের পথ থেকে বাঁচিয়ে স্বচ্ছ সমাজ-জীবনে ফিরিয়ে আনা যায়।

১৯১৯ সালে জেল কমিটির Reportএ মেয়েদের প্রশাসন জেলের ব্যবস্থা করবার কথা আছে। কিন্তু আজও সেটা কাজে পরিণত করা হয়নি। জেলের ভিতর undertrial prisoner এবং অন্যান্যদের মধ্যে শ্রেণীবিন্যাস করাও দরকার। অনেক সময় Mental ব্যাধিগ্রস্ত মেয়েদেরও সাধারণ আসানীদের সঙ্গে গোপা করে রাখা হয়।

কাজেই আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুবোধ করছি তিনি যেন মামুলিভাবে এটা না নিয়ে সভ্যসভাই মেয়েদের জন্য পৃথক জেলের ব্যবস্থা করেন।

Mr. PROVASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head “28—Jails and Convict Settlements” be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to abolish classification among the political convicts and placing them in one special class with amenities of civilised life in jail.

I again beg to move that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to revise the Jail Codes, to fit in with the changing political situations in India.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to provide for mosquito-nets to Division III convicts at Government cost for their use in jails.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি জেলের ব্যবস্থার সম্পর্কে যে তিনটি টাইট পুস্তক করেছি তাব মধ্যে ৮ নং টাইট পুস্তকটি সর্বপ্রধান। অর্থাৎ "জেল কোড" যদি সংস্কার করা না হয় তাহলে জেলের কোন সংস্কার করা সম্ভবপর নয়।

বাড়ী এবং সমাজের প্রয়োজনের তাগিদে একদিন জেলের কল্লি হয়েছিল। মানুষ যখন বাড়ী বা সমাজের বিরুদ্ধে কোন অপরাধ করে, তখন তাকে সাময়িকভাবে সমাজ থেকে বিচিষ্ট্য করে রাখার জন্য জেলের প্রয়োজন ছিল। সমাজে যখন প্রগতিশীল নোকেব অভাব ছিল, তখন জেলের ব্যবস্থা ছিল শাস্তিমূলক ও প্রতিহিংসামূলক। তাবপরে সমাজে মতই প্রগতিশীল নোকেব সংখ্যা বাড়তে, ততই অন্যান্য সমস্ত প্রগতিশীল দেশে জেলেও সংস্কার সাধিত হয়েছে। কিন্তু বড়ই দুর্ভাগ্য, আমাদের বাংলাদেশে আজ পর্যন্ত জেলের কোন বিশেষ সংস্কারসাধন হয়নি। কারণ বাংলাদেশের গভর্নমেন্টের দায়িত্বভার তাদের উপরে আছে, তারা এখনও মধ্যযুগীয় মনোভাব নিয়ে চলছে। প্রগতির পথ তারা সাম্প্রদায়িক ধৃষা তুলে বোধ করে বেগে দিয়েছে। সেজন্য প্রগতি আজও এই গভর্নমেন্টের উপর কোন চাপ ফেলতে পারেনি।

এখানে জেলের সংস্কার বহুবিধ করা দরকার। তাব মধ্যে আমি প্রথমতঃ কয়েকটি বিষয় বলবো। প্রথম—রাষ্ট্র-বন্দীদের মধ্যে বর্তমান শ্রেণীবিভাগ তুলে দিয়ে তাদের এক শ্রেণীভুক্ত করা এবং একটি বিশেষ শ্রেণীভুক্ত করা প্রয়োজন। আজ সভা জগতে সমস্ত জায়গাতে সমস্ত গভর্নমেন্ট স্বীকার করে নিয়েছেন যে রাষ্ট্রের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলন করার ও রাষ্ট্রের পবিত্রতাবোধ জন্য চেষ্টা করার অধিকার সভা মানুষের আছে; তাই রাষ্ট্রের বিরুদ্ধে যারা অপরাধ করেন, তাঁরা বর্তমান চলতি আইনের দৃষ্টিতে অপরাধী হলেও কাজেই তাদের সঙ্গে জেলের ভিতর সম্মানের সমিত ব্যবহার করা হয় এবং তাঁরা একটি বিশেষ শ্রেণীভুক্ত কয়েদী বলে পরিগণিত হয়। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে সে ব্যবস্থা নাই। বাংলার কলকাতার স্বাধীন নগর এস এই ব্যবস্থা পূর্বদানের জন্য আশ্রয় করে নিজের জীবনকে আত্মহুতি দান করেন। ফলে কয়েদীদের শ্রেণীবিভাগের নতুন পূর্বদান হয়। কিন্তু তথাপি রাষ্ট্রনৈতিক বন্দী অর্থাৎ যারা রাষ্ট্রের বিরুদ্ধে অপরাধ করেন তাদের এবং যারা সমাজের বিরুদ্ধে অপরাধ করে অর্থাৎ চুরি, ডাকাতি, হত্যাকাণ্ড, গুলীহরণ, নারীধন প্রভৃতি দ্বারা কাজ করে, তাদের একই পর্যায়ভুক্ত করা হয়, তাদের মধ্যে কোন পার্থক্য করা হয় না। আর তাদের যা classification তা যেমন-বুগামিত করা হয়, কোন বিচার বিবেচনা করে করা হয় না। তার প্রমাণ দেখেছি বালুবন্দীদের একটি case-এ। শ্রীশ্রীসেজ নাথ বন্দু—ইনি অবস্থাপন নোকেব জেলে, তরুণ যুবক, তাঁকে আজ পর্যন্ত classified করা হয় নাই। আমার বন্ধু মিশীপ নার এ বিষয় অনেক চেষ্টা করেছেন, বাইরে থেকেও অনেক চেষ্টা করেছেন। কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত তাকে classified করা হয় নাই। যদি রাষ্ট্রনৈতিক বন্দীদের মধ্যে কোন classification না থাকে, সকল কয়েদীই এক শ্রেণীভুক্ত হয়, তাহলে অবশ্য classification-এর প্রশ্ন আসে না।

তাবপর ২ নং হ'ল তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের মধ্যে কোন রকম নশারী দেবার ব্যবস্থা নাই। আপনারা জানেন, প্রথম এই পরিঘর্ষে নশারী মহাশয় এ সম্পর্কে যে কথা বলেছিলেন, আজ পর্যন্ত সে ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের যেন নশারী কামড় লাগে না। এই শাস্তিমূলক মনোভাব আজও গভর্নমেন্টের মধ্যে আছে বলে এটা সম্ভবপর হয়েছে। যদি বাড়ী থেকে ও বাইরে থেকে নশারী দেওয়া হয়, তবু তা তারা খাটিতে পারে না। কারণ জেলে সে আইন নাই। তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের নশারী ব্যবহারের অধিকার নাই। এই রকম শাস্তি-মূলক ব্যবস্থা আছে বলেই জেলখানায় এখনও বানী-পুখা রোগ হয় নাই। মানুষকে দিয়ে পশুর কাজ করান হচ্ছে। এই মানুষকে যে সত্যিকার ভাল মানুষ করা যেতে পারে, তা করা হচ্ছে না। এই বানী-পুখা অবিলম্বে রোগ ধরার দরকার।

তারপর হ'ল জেলের বিচার-সমস্যা। বিচারের সময় দেখা যায় কয়েদীদের কাছে এক টুকরা তামাক পেলে, অবনি তাদের সাজা হয়ে যায়। সেই যে তামাক তারা কোথা থেকে পায়, কোথা থেকে আসে, তা কেউ দেখে না। তারজন্য সাজা হয়ে যায় কয়েদীদের কিন্তু সেপাইবা জায়া তাদের তামাক জোগায়, তাদের সাজা হয় না। কয়েদীদের

জেলখানার অপরাধের শতকরা ৮০ ভাগ ডাচাকের অপরাধে অপরাধী হয়। জেলের বিচার-সমস্যা আরও গুরুতর। তার একটি প্রমাণ দেখাচ্ছি। আলিপুর জেলখানার ভেতর শ্রীযু বর্দমণের (বালুরঘাট Case) পোষাক ছিঁড়ে নিয়েছিল, তা বন্দনার জন্য আবেদন করলে তার সাজা হ'ল ভাগা বেড়ী ("Shame", "shame")। এখনও তার পায় ভাগাবেড়ী দেওয়া আছে। এইভাবে সেখানে বিচার হয়। আমি মনে করি জেলের ভেতর পক্ষায়েতী প্রথা সঙ্গী করে বিচার করা দরকার। (Red light shown) আর এক মিনিট, স্যার। আর একটি কথা বলবো। ভারতীয় সেপাই ও ইউরোপীয়ান সেপাইদের মধ্যে বহু পার্থক্য রয়েছে তাদের মাইনাস পার্থক্য, প্রমোশনে পার্থক্য। কাবণ ওয়া খলা আর এরা কালা। জেলের ইউরোপীয়ান সেপাইরা Jailer ও Superintendent পর্যন্ত হতে পারে। আর জেলের ভারতীয় কালা সেপাইরা বড়জোব ঐ জমাদার পর্যন্ত। মাইনাসেও যথেষ্ট পার্থক্য। ভারতীয় সেপাই পায় ২২ টাকা, আর ইউরোপীয়ান সেপাই পায় দেড়শো টাকা। আরও বহু কিছু বলার ছিল, কিন্তু সময়ে কুলানো না। আমি এই কথা বলে আমার cut motionটা এই House-এর সামনে পেশ করলাম।

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about (i) the necessity of amending the Jail Code in such a way that the prisoners may come out as useful citizens, (ii) miserable condition of Division III prisoners regarding food, clothing, bedding, accommodation, medical aid, and treatment by Jail officers and warders, (iii) practice of forcing the undertrial prisoners to work, (iv) low pay and hard duty of Indian warders and bad system of leave, (v) appointment of European warders generally with very little education as Jailors of the Presidency Jail and Alipore Central Jail over the head of educated and experienced Indian Deputy Jailors, and (vi) replacement of European Warders by Indian Warders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, জেলের ভিতর কয়েদীদের উপর অত্যাচার সত্ত্বে আলোচনা পূর্বে এ House-এ বহবার হয়েছে। আজও আপনারা সে কথা শুনলেন। জেলের কোন কথা বলতে গেলে বলা যায় যে জেলের তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের মানুষ বলে গ্রহণ করা হয় না। যেভাবে তাদের রাখা হয়, যে খাদ্য তাদের ষেতে দেওয়া হয়, তাতে বলতে হয় এদের মানুষের মর্যাদা দেওয়া হয় না। এদের প্রতি পতর চেয়েও অধন ব্যবহার করা হয়। এর প্রতিকারের জন্য আমার পূর্ব বক্তী বক্তা আমার বন্ধু মাননীয় প্রভাস চন্দ্র লাহিড়ী মহাশয় যা' বলেছেন তা আমি সর্গা হুঃকরণে সমর্থন করি। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট আবেদন, তিনি যেন অবিলম্বে জেল কোডের পরিবর্তন করে এর প্রতিবিধান করেন। জেলের অনাচার ও অবিচার যে শুধু কেবল বাজটেন্ডিট বন্দীদের প্রতিই হয় তা' নয়, তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর সাধারণ কয়েদীদের প্রতিও হয়। জেলের স্বরে স্বরে অনাচার ও অত্যাচার চলছে। সেটা একটি অবিচারের ভিন্ন বাজ। বহির্জগতের সাথে তাব কোন সম্পর্ক নেই। বহির্জগতের স্বাভাবিকতায় দিয়ে এর বিচার করা চলে না। এটা একেবারে একটি ভিন্ন রাজ্য এবং সেখানে ভিন্ন অবস্থা বিরাজমান। তা' বাইরে থেকে উপলব্ধি করা যায় না। মানুষ যে মানুষের উপর এত অনাচার চালাতে পারে এবং দুঃখবহার করতে পারে তা পূর্বে আমাদেরও জানা ছিল না। জেলের তিন অতিক্রান্ত না হলে জানা যেত লা, কতপনাও কথা দুঃসাধ্য। আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করবো তিনি যেন অবিলম্বে জেল কোডের সংশোধনের ব্যবস্থা করেন। আমার পূর্ব বক্তী বক্তা জেল সত্ত্বে অনেক কথা পরিষ্কার করে উল্লেখ করেছেন। আমার সময় অল্প। আমি সেগুলির আর পুনরাবৃত্তি করবো না। ইয়োরোপীয়ান Warder সত্ত্বে ২১১ কথা বলছি। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এ কথা জানেন যে কিভাবে European Wardersর Indian Deputy Jailorদের দ্বারা supersede করে promotion পেয়ে উপরে উঠে যায়। এই European Wardersর অস্বীকৃতি। কোন ডাচায় দুই লাইন শুদ্ধ করে লিখতে পারে না। যারা দুদিন পূর্বে লাঠি কাঁধে করে পাহারা দেয়, তারাই হঠাৎ promotion পেয়ে বাজালী হিলু, মুসলমান উচ্চশিক্ষিত Deputy Jailorদের উপরে Jailer বা Superintendent হয়ে যায়, এটা অত্যন্ত অন্যায়। এ অন্যায় আর কত দিন চলতে থাকবে? আমি আশা করি বর্তমান মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অচিবে আদেশ দাবা এই অন্যায় দূর করে দিবেন এবং লম্বা মাইনের European Wardersদের পরিবর্তে Indian Wardersদের নিযুক্ত করবেন। এই সাধারণ Indian Sopyoy যারা তাদের অবস্থা তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের চেয়ে বেশী ভাল নয় তারা অনেক Matriculation পাশ করা। কিন্তু এসব হিলু মুসলমান Wardersদের প্রতি জবন্য ব্যবহার করা হ'য়ে থাকে।

এদের কাজ করতে হয় European Warderদের চেয়ে বেশী এবং কষ্টসাধ্য, কিন্তু বেতন পায় ওদের চেয়ে অর্ধেকেরও কম। থাকবার ব্যবস্থা বোটেই ভাল নয়। যে ব্যারাকে থাকে সে ব্যারাকগুলি অভ্যস্ত অস্বাস্থ্যকর। এদের উন্নতির পথ নেই। শিকার কোন বন্দোবস্ত নেই। নিজস্বের যোগ্যতা দেখিয়ে যে উন্নতি করে যাবে সে বকম বন্দোবস্ত বা সম্ভাবনাও নেই। কাজেই এই সকল বিষয়ের সংশোধনের জন্য জেল কোড পরিবর্তনের প্রয়োজন। আপনাবা হয়ত লক্ষ্য করে থাকবেন যে জেলের আর কম, বায় বেশী। তাই জেল কোডের পরিবর্তন করে যদি জেলে নানা প্রকার Industry খোলা হয় তা হ'লে জেলের আয়ও বাড়বে এবং যারা জেলে যায় তারা ভাল আবহাওয়ায় শিকা লাভ করে বাইরে এসে জীবিকা অর্জন করতে পারবে। আমার পূর্ণবস্ত্রী বক্তা বিড়ি তামাকের কথা বলে গিয়েছেন। আপনাবা জানেন যে আমাদের দেশে নৌকিকতা রক্ষা করা হয় এক ড্রিলিং তামাক খাইয়ে। কয়েদীদের অধিকাংশই থাকে তামাক খেতে অভ্যস্ত, তাদের জেলের মধ্যে একটা বিড়ি বা এক ড্রিলিং তামাক দিলে কি মহাভাবত অশুভ হয়ে যায়? কয়েদীদের নিকট বিড়ি বা তামাক পাওয়া গেলে তাদের শাস্তি দেওয়া হয়, কিন্তু এই বিড়ি বা তামাক আসে কোথা থেকে তা জানবার চেষ্টা বা প্রয়োজন কতটা বেশ করেন না। তাই আমি জেলখানার এই বাড়িচার দু'ব কবার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। তারপর আপনাবা উল্লেখ করেন যে জেলের ঘানিতে মানুষ দ্বারা তেল বার করান হয়—মানুষের এই অপমান এখনও চলবে কি? আপনাবা জানেন না তেল তৈরি করে বটে কিন্তু এই তেল কয়েদীদের ব্যবহার করতে দেওয়া হয় না। তারা রুকু মাশায় থাকে। তারা মাশার ঘান পায়ে ফেলে তেল বার করে, আর উচ্ছৃঙ্খল কর্মচারীরা এই তেল ব্যবহার করে এবং বাকীটা বাজারে বিক্রি করে। কিন্তু হতভাগ্য কয়েদীরা মাঝা বজু জল করে তেল বার করে তারা এই তেল ব্যবহার করতে পারে না। তারপর জেলের গোয়ালে যে দুধ হয় সে দুধও কয়েদীদের খেতে দেওয়া হয় না। ডাক্তারের prescription এ তাদের দুধ খেতে বন্ধে বাহির থেকে জল বিশালদুধ কিনে এনে তাতে আরও জল মিশিয়ে কোদীদের দেওয়া হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, your time is over.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYA : আমি পুনরায় অনুরোধ করছি যে সবকারী এবং বেসবকারী কয়েকজন লোক নিয়ে একটি committee গঠন করে অবিলম্বে এই জেল কোড সংশোধন করা হউক।

Mr. COBINDAL BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about working out a scheme for the purpose of rehabilitating the convicted criminals as good citizens and also about the possibility of improving upon the Jail industries.

Sir, the subject-matter under discussion is important because the society in which these criminals live must take responsibility for them. In order to make these criminals good citizens, the society must arrange for the detention or imprisonment, whatever you may say, in such a way that they receive proper treatment as a patient receives treatment and as a school teacher brings up the children of the soil so that they may become good citizens and help in social welfare. In that light, Sir, the whole subject has got to be approached.

Sir, we have seen reports of different Jail Enquiry Committees, but I am afraid, the recommendations made therein have not been given effect to. Why does it happen? It happens because the Government—whichever Government may be in power—has got no objective in this regard. The objective of treating criminals of the society must be reformatory. It has been agreed by all that the aims of jail administration must be the prevention of further crimes as well as restoration of criminals to society with reformed character. In this regard it has been suggested that the District Jails must be reduced and more Central Jails must be created so that these prisoners may be lodged in one jail in greater numbers and they may receive proper treatment from the jail authorities, but that has not been done.

Sir, the subject upon which I would like to lay special emphasis is that there is no proper arrangement for rehabilitating these prisoners in society

and also no proper care and arrangement for improving the jail industries which may have two-fold effects upon society—the first effect is to increase production and the second effect upon the prisoners themselves.

It has been said that a large amount of money is necessary to give effect to the proposals made in different reports. But I can say from the reports on Jails in England and Wales that they have made experiments and found that the expenditure made in this regard really adds to the revenue. Here the prisoners who remain in jails feel that their labour is lost and the money that is incurred on feeding them and clothing them is wasted.

It has been said that in this matter much has got to be done. Expert superintendents should be appointed but this has been disregarded. We have seen experts reviewing cases, but there are no experts as Superintendents of Jails in order to bring such effect upon the criminals which is called humanising effect. In this regard I would like to remind the Ministry that whatever money is spent, everything will go in vain if they do not work out the whole scheme in a proper way. Dehumanising effect is the effect of the present policy of Government and it is reflected in the whole administration and particularly in the jail administration.

Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

MR. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Sir, I would not have taken part in the discussion today had India been a happy country. I find that jails are treated here as places for punishment and not as reformatory institutions. But the object of the jails should be to reform the character of the prisoners so that they may come out of the jails with good character and they may be some asset to the society.

Sir, the condition of the present *hajat* is so deplorable that it beggars description. I will refer particularly to one case which has happened at Bogra. On the 26th January, 1947, in the *hajat* of the Bogra Sadar thana one Muhammad Asaruddin Sarkar who was arrested on the alleged offence of stealing a cow was found dead hanging with his *dhoti* clinging to the wall from the middle cross of the window situated at a height of 7 feet 4 inches from the floor. From this, it is presumed that it may be that during the extortion of confession, this unfortunate man died or was about to die when he might have been hanged by the police in charge of the thana on that night. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge has got this report from the thana as yet. I do not also know what is the result of the post-mortem examination.

Sir, in this connection it may be noted that the present Civil Surgeon and the Assistant Surgeon of the Bogra Government Hospital and also the Superintendent of Police and most of the officers in charge and Sub-Inspectors of Bogra are coming from a community which is always adverse to the Muslim interests and the Muslim community. In the Jails Department also I find that the officers come from one major dominant community who are dominating the administration in Bengal, that is, the Hindu community. They are not treating the Muslim prisoners very well and I suggest that the officers should be recruited in such a large number from the Muslim community that the Muslim prisoners may get sufficient redress of their grievances from these officers. I will say particularly that in Noakhali and Tippera there are so many Muslim prisoners, but it is now reported and I have received so many reports that they are getting so deplorable treatment, so malicious treatment that I cannot describe it. So, in order to pay attention to the condition of the prisoners in Noakhali and Tippera, Government must be alert.

Sir, the reformatory rules which are there on paper are not being enforced in the jails. There is no arrangement for moral and economic teaching to the prisoners by the officers of jails. I expect that the Government should

make it a point to make arrangements for all these things so that the prisoners, when they come out of the prisons and jails, will be an asset to the society.

In the appointment of warders also I find that injustice is always done to the Muslims. There are non-Bengalee warders who do not feel for the Bengalee prisoners. There can be no denying the fact that the greater number of prisoners come from the Muslim community and to feel for the Muslims and to raise the status of the Muslims to do some good to the Muslim community, it is essential that the majority of the warders and officers in the Jails Department should be Muslim. I hope, Sir, that Government will henceforth try to investigate into the matter which I mentioned just now about the incident at Bogra *kajat*, so that redress may be given to the prisoners and to the arrested persons. Sir, it is most unfortunate that the man to whom I referred was not a convicted person or at any time convicted. He was a very good man whom I know very well. He comes from a village and a thana and I found that the police took—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

HUSAN ARA BEGUM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the condition of women prisoners in the Presidency of Bengal, especially in Calcutta. The question is a very serious one. At first we thought that there will be no necessity for a separate jail for women prisoners and they may be kept in the same jail as men prisoners. But now things are changing and therefore it is necessary for having women prisoners in a separate jail. During my tour in Lahore and other parts of the Punjab last month I found that they have a special jail for women in Lahore, and they have a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, Jailors—all are women, and everything is managed by women. Sir, I will not take much time of the House, but my only grievance is this. I ask the Hon'ble Minister to be good enough to make provision for a special jail for women and to see that it is managed by those who have the interest of women at heart. At the present moment, there are not only women of the ordinary class who are going to jail but there are women of good position—I may say, ladies—who are going to jail, as circumstances are changing. Therefore I request the Hon'ble Minister to be good enough to see that some special provision is made for this purpose. The Hon'ble Minister will please set apart a special sum for maintenance and establishment of a part of the jail for these women. Sir, I do not wish to say anything more. I hope this problem will be solved.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the question of providing a separate jail for female prisoners, I would like to place these facts before the House. Chapter XXIX of the Jail Code, Volume I, provides for the accommodation of female prisoners. According to rule 945 of the Jail Code "female prisoners shall be rigidly secluded from the male prisoners, and the under-trial females shall, if possible, be kept apart from the convicts. The female ward shall be so situated as not to be overlooked by any part of the male jail; and there shall be a separate hospital for sick female prisoners within or directly adjoining the female enclosure." According to Jail Code rule 946 "In the female division of every jail there shall be a block of cells sufficient in number for use as punishment cells and to afford separate accommodation for female undertrial prisoners." Jail Code rule 948 lays down: "when there is only one female prisoner in the female ward and there is no female warder, the Superintendent shall arrange to allow a female friend to visit the prisoner and live with her in the jail. If the female prisoner has no friend who will stay with her, the Superintendent shall entertain a female as an extra warder to keep her company in anticipation of the Inspector-General's sanction."

Now, Sir as far as my information goes, all these rules are strictly followed. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Question. Not at all. Nowhere.) If you say "nowhere" I will place further facts before you. In every jail, in every district—(Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: We speak from experience.) The honourable member who moved this motion should admit that there is a separate ward. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Nothing beyond that.) In every central jail or district jail, especially in Berhampore jail and Malda sub-jail, there is accommodation for female under-trials and convicts. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Have you visited any jail? See for yourself first.) Sir, I would request the honourable members of the Opposition, if they think that these facts which I have placed before them are not correct,—they may bring them to my notice with specific instances, so that I can go into the question and consider its merits and demerits accordingly. As to the question whether it is desirable to have a separate jail I would like to have the advice of this House. I would however like to point out one difficulty. In last March there were only 57 female prisoners in the whole province. If you want to have a separate jail, it means it will have to be centralised at a particular place. The question is whether it is desirable to remove the female prisoners from their own districts, from the neighbourhood of their districts and send them there. That is a point on which I would like to have the advice of the House. If it is possible, as I intend to do later on, to meet the members of the Opposition in conference, I would then like to have their advice as to whether there should be a separate jail or not.

With regard to putting political prisoners in one special class, here as a matter of fact the classification is done according to the station of life which a prisoner holds. (Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Nowhere is it observed?) It is strictly followed according to the station of life. Now, Sir, there are three classes for the convicts, namely, classes 1 and 2 for persons who have come from families having a higher standard of living than ordinary prisoners. Division III prisoners are those who come from the ordinary class of society. There is no special class for political prisoners. If you want that there should be a separate class for political prisoners although these prisoners may come from the same families having the same standard of living as the ordinary class of society has, then I think it is not desirable—

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: But the fact is that persons of a higher status in society are not receiving proper classification. I can give concrete instances.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should point out that it is not proper to make running comments in the midst of a speech. If you do not approve any statement, you can express your feeling by simply saying "question" or something like that. The parliamentary practice is to question but there should not be arguments and counterarguments in the midst of a speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, Government is not prepared to make a distinction between political prisoners and other prisoners. But Government is prepared to distinguish prisoners on the basis of their social status, education, habit of life and such other things. That is the principle that Government has accepted, and on that basis the Jail Code has been framed. If, however, any honourable member can bring to my notice that in a particular case the rules have not been followed, I can assure you that the matter will be enquired into and rectified.

With regard to cut motion No. 8 regarding revision of the Jail Code I should inform the House that the object of the Jail administration is to reform the criminals, to train them in useful crafts to enable them to earn an honest living after leaving the jail and to provide for adequate arrangements for after-care. The Jail Code has been framed with a view to give effect to all these things. Now the question may arise if the Jail Code has met the intentions of the Government. If the provisions have not met the

intentions of Government then what I propose is the same thing on which the Opposition has laid so much emphasis, namely, the revision of the Jail Code. What I would do is to call a conference of the members of the different parties of this House and invite suggestions from them regarding the revision of the Jail Code. If I find that their requests are reasonable and meet the very purposes for which the Jail Code has been framed, then I would revise the Jail Code accordingly.

Now, I come to the question of mosquito nets. The objections to the supply of mosquito nets to division III prisoners are mainly these: they obstruct the guards from watching the prisoners in barracks and as such increase vices amongst the prisoners behind the screen of the mosquito nets. Therefore what I propose to do is to make an experiment with the spray of D.D.T. That experiment has been undertaken in the Presidency Jail and has proved successful. I am of opinion that that would be more effective and more economical and that would also safeguard the sanitary condition of the jails. That is the reason why we have introduced spraying with D.D.T. in the Presidency Jail and I intend to introduce the same in all the jails of Bengal.

With regard to food, clothing, bedding, accommodation, medical aid and treatment of jail officers and warders, so far as the question of food, clothing and bedding are concerned, my information is that not only has there been no complaint from the jail officials or the prisoners themselves, but there have even been very few complaints about these things from the non-official jail visitors, some of whom happen to be the members of the Opposition. I have not heard of complaints made even by them with regard to food, clothing and bedding.

As regards accommodation we have taken in hand a programme for extending jail accommodation and we will carry them out within five or ten years. With regard to medical aid I think sufficient medical aid is available in every jail and if anyone can bring to my notice that sufficient medical aid is not available I shall enquire into the question and make arrangement for adequate medical treatment of prisoners.

With regard to the question of treatment meted out by Jail Warders towards under-trial prisoners I would request the honourable members to bring to my notice all such instances so that I can enquire into them. And I can assure the House that adequate punishment will be given to those who will be found guilty of any inhuman treatment. Then a question has been raised that under-trial prisoners are forced to work. That is not correct. The real position is that they themselves require in their own interest some work for one hour in the morning and for one hour in the evening. They themselves want that they should be given some work and accordingly they are allowed to work in any calling or trade which they like to choose with the approval of the Superintendent. (A MEMBER FROM THE OPPOSITION: They get half diet if they do not work and full diet if they work.)

A point has been raised regarding the promotion of European warders as jailors superseding the claims of Indian jailors. I will take this question up and I hope I shall be able to remove the grievances, if any, of the Indian jailors.

I may tell the honourable members that if any breach of rules comes to their notice, they may bring it to my notice and I will do my best to rectify it.

Now a question has been raised by Mr. Ilias about the detention of under-trial prisoners in *hajats*. I do not know whether it was in a police *hajats* or in a jail *hajats*. If it was in the jail *hajats* I assure him it will be enquired into and if his allegations are found to be true, I can assure him that the

case will be severely dealt with—(A MEMBER FROM THE OPPOSITION: What about the abolition of the *ghani*?) Yes, I can make this announcement that I have decided to abolish the *ghani* as a sort of punishment in the jails—

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: What about the supply of mustard oil in jails?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mustard oil for jails will be supplied by the crushing of mustard seeds by power motor in jails. Such oil will be produced in two or three jails and they will be distributed to different jails according to requirements. Now, with regard to the prisoners of Noakhali and Tippera I can tell you that all the grievances of the prisoners have been removed and their grievances were not many. I myself visited the Noakhali Jail and Mr. Mafizuddin Ahmed, Chief Whip, visited several times the Comilla Jail and all grievances that were brought to our notice were personally enquired into and removed.

Sir, with these words I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Miss Bina Das that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Pravash Chandra Lahiry that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

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The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Gobinda Lal Banerjee that the demand of Rs.98,49,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman that a sum of Rs.98,49,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" was then put and agreed to.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move with your permission, that a sum of Rs.4,57,59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police".

Mr. SATIS CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about corruption, nepotism, bribery and inefficiency of the department particularly in the matter of Calcutta riots, Dacca, Chittagong, Comilla and Noakhali hooliganism.

Sir, the omissions and commissions of the department are too numerous to be dealt with within the time-limit allowed. But I feel I must voice the opinion of a large section of people regarding the Police administration of our province. It is an established fact that due to communal Ministry in office the whole administration, specially the Police administration, has

vitiated to a degree with grave consequences. Sir, in coming to the recruitment side of it, minimum efficiency is being considered suitable for the sake of communal ratio or party patronage. Regarding promotion, senior and efficient men are being transferred to office duties or other unimportant positions and are being replaced by junior and inexperienced men from subordinate positions as officiating hands with a view to occupying the key posts in the service. These are being done with a settled plan and a definite object in view.

A large number of Peshawaris have been and are being recruited in the Armed Branch of the Force to the detriment of the interests of the men of the province. We have got conclusive proofs that most communally minded of the officers have been or are being posted in many important stations and they are carrying on propaganda on behalf of the League with impunity.

Coming to the efficiency of the staff, it is a well-known fact that the entire force is corrupt and inefficient and cannot be depended on in times of need. I do not wish to narrate the part played by the Police Commissioner of Calcutta or his chief, the Hon'ble Minister in charge during the Direct Action Days. During those fateful days Calcutta people witnessed the total absence of the police force from the scene. It seemed that they had been previously locked up in barracks lest they should interfere with the Direct Action programmes of the *Pakistani Fauj*. The few that had been out did not try to save any person or property and were mere spectators of the horrible carnage and devastation.

In the Bengal Council the Hon'ble Chief Minister blamed the Commissioner of Police and in the Enquiry Commission the Calcutta Police Commissioner ascribed his inaction to the interference by the Hon'ble Minister and his comrades of the League. The public however believe that both the police and the League arrived at some understanding beforehand regarding the affair. It is no secret today that many police officers, not so highly placed, informed their superiors a few days before the Direct Action Day what the supporters of the League at Kalabagan, Rajabazar, Maniktolla, Beckbagan, Kidderpore and Mominpore area were about. But the police authorities treated these informations with super-indifference. The Superintendent of Police in the district of Noakhali was informed of the preparations that the hooligans were making there but he did not take any action. As a matter of fact the horrible happenings at Keraniganj area in Dacca town could not have taken place if Mr. Taylor, the Inspector-General of Police, who was holding a conference within an arrow shot distance from the scene of arson, loot and carnage, had tried to check the activity of the mob. But for the indulgence of the police, the motor boat carrying weapons for the crusaders could not have started from Ahsan Manzil Ghat. Many believe that the European officers of the Police Department made some unholy alliance with the General Officer Commanding the *Pakistani Fauj*, to teach the Hindus of Bengal a lesson. Many believe that even some of the *Bara Sahabs* of Clive Street had previous ideas of what the Direct Action programme would be like. The inefficiency of the staff is demonstrated by the police frings in so many districts of Bengal in recent times. They bungle, they mismanage, they allow the situation to grow worse and then resort to firing and take the credit of handling a grave situation. There is a story current that Mr. Warren Hastings was blessed with the words "May God make you a Daroga". It is a fact that even in our days if anybody secures a job in the Police Department he thinks his future assured—it is all milk and honey.

It is no exaggeration to say that suspects in police lock-ups generally live in veritable hell. There is no sanitary arrangements in these lock-ups including the best in the Province—the Lalbazar lock-up. The blanket supplied is dirty to the extreme. An equally dirty mug serves the double purpose of drinking and washing. The food supplied in these lock-ups beggars description. Humanity and gentlemanliness are totally absent.

Improvement was expected after the Ministry was placed in charge of Police administration. But as the Minister in charge had to be otherwise busy with Party programmes he could not possibly find any time to attend to the necessary reforms.

The whole Police administration stands condemned before the bar of public opinion. There is no security of life and property. It has miserably failed to check the hooligans and goonda elements of the society. It has failed to check dacoities or river dacoities. But it has acquired a notoriety for firing upon unarmed innocent students and simple peasants.

Sir, with these few words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the oppression of the Calcutta Traffic Police on the bus drivers of Calcutta.

বিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, কলিকাতা সহরে যত লোক ট্রাবে ও বাসে চলে তার মধ্যে $\frac{2}{3}$ লোক চলে বাসে, আর $\frac{1}{3}$ লোক ট্রাবে। এ থেকেই বাসের প্রয়োজনীয়তা ও উপকারিতা নির্ণয় করা সম্ভব। এছাড়া যদি বাস না থাকে আর ট্রাবে strike চলে তখন জনগণের রাস্তায় চলাফেরা করা যে কিরূপ কষ্টকর হয়ে পড়ায় তা কলিকাতায় সকলে আজ হাড়ে হাড়ে টের পাচ্ছে। এখন বাস চলছে বলে বাসের ভিতরে শাঁড়িয়ে বা বাহিরে খুলে লোক কোন রকমে কলিকাতায় যাতায়াত করতে, কিন্তু বাস না থাকলে তাদের পক্ষে কলিকাতায় চলাফেরা অসম্ভব হয়ে উঠত। তাছাড়া বাস না থাকলে ট্রাম কোম্পানী একচেটিয়া কাবাবের স্বযোগ নিয়ে ট্রামের ভাড়া দিন দিন বাড়তে পারত, কিন্তু বাস চালু থাকায় ট্রাম কোম্পানী সে স্বযোগ গ্রহণ করতে পারছে না। সুতরাং বাস প্রবর্তিত হওয়ার পর জনগণের যে নানারূপ সুবিধা হয়েছে তা সহজেই বোধগম্য। অথচ এই বাস-চালক ও কন্ডাক্টরগণকে পুলিশের হাতে নানা রকম অত্যাচার সহ্য করতে হয়। রাস্তার মোড়ে মোড়ে কিছা বাস stand-এ বেশব জনসার কিছা পুলিশ থাকে তাদের অভাব পড়লেই তারা বাস-driver ও conductorদের কাছে হাত পাতে, তখন তাদের হাতে টাকা কিছা আতুলি না দিলে তারা পিছন হতে বাসের নম্বর টুকে নিয়ে লাল-মাজারে পাঠিয়ে দেয়, ফলে ৩-৪ দিন পষ conductor এবং driver দেখতে পায় তাদের নামে শমন এসেছে এবং তাদের court-এ গিয়ে হাজির হতে হয়। সেখানে নিজেদের নিরপরাধ প্রমাণ করবার জন্য সাক্ষী হাজির করবার স্বযোগ তারা পায় না। কারণ সে বেচারারা জানে না কোন সময় তাদের বাসের নম্বর টুকে নেওয়া হয়েছে এবং সে সময় কোন কোন লোক তাদের বাসের সাক্ষী ছিল। সুতরাং কাকে সাক্ষীরূপে হাজির করবে ঠিক করতে পারে না। ফলে অপরাধী সাব্যস্ত হয় এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ২০৮, ২৫৮, ৩০৮ টাকা জরিমানা হয়ে যায়। এইভাবে প্রতিদিন অসংখ্য বাস-driver এবং conductorকে জরিমানা দিতে হচ্ছে। বাস-driverদের পক্ষে এভাবে বাস চালান সত্যি অত্যন্ত কঠিন। এ সম্বন্ধে পুনঃ পুনঃ অভিযোগ করা হয়েছে, সংবাদপত্রে বিবৃতি দেওয়া হয়েছে। কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত কোন ফল ফলেনি। তাই আজ আমি সকলের নিকট আবেদন জানাচ্ছি, তাঁরা যদি চান যে কলিকাতার রাস্তায় বাস চলুক তাহলে বাস-driver ও conductorদের উপর পুলিশ হাতে অন্যায় জুলুম করতে না পারে সেদিকে নজর দিতে হবে। বাস-driver ও conductor-দের পুলিশের জুলুম হতে রক্ষা করবার তিনটি উপায় আছে। প্রথমতঃ পুলিশ যখন বাসের নম্বর টুকে নেয় তখন যদি পুলিশ বাস-driver ও conductor-এর কাছে বাসের licence চায় তাহলে বাস driver ও conductor বৃদ্ধে পারে যে তাদের বাসের নম্বর টুকে নেওয়া হচ্ছে এবং তারা তখন সাক্ষীরূপে বধ্য থেকে সাক্ষী ঠিক করে রাখতে পারে যাতে court-এ তাদের অসুবিধা না হয়। এরূপ ব্যবস্থা হলে তারা অন্যায় অত্যাচারের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ করবার স্বযোগ পায়। ২ বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টেরও এই দিকে একটি কর্তব্য আছে। গভর্নমেন্টেরও দেখা উচিত পুলিশ হাতে কথায় কথায় বাস-driver এবং conductor-এর উপর অত্যাচার না করে এবং যে সত্যিই অপরাধী সেই বেদ শাস্তিপায়। আমি বাস driver union এর সভাপতি; সুতরাং বাস-driverদের কত প্রকার নির্দায়িত সহ্য করতে হয় তা আমার ভালভাবেই জানা আছে। তৃতীয়তঃ পুলিশের এই অন্যায় অত্যাচারের অবসানের জন্য বাংলার জনগণও অনেক কিছু করতে পারে। যদি জনগণ এই অন্যায় অত্যাচারের বিরুদ্ধে সম্মিলিতভাবে প্রতিবাদ জানায় তবে আমি বনে করি এই অত্যাচারের অবসান অচিরেই সম্ভবপর।

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, may I on behalf of my honourable friend Mr. Narendra Singh move motions Nos. 123 and 125?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about inefficiency and communalism in Police administration.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about Calcutta Police.

Sir, on Monday last our young Finance Minister had roused our enthusiasm by assuring us that the stigma that we are not a martial race was not only unfair and unjust but should not be allowed to continue to be fastened on to us. Yet when it is a question of recruiting armed police in Calcutta, his Government sends post haste two senior Police officers to the Punjab to recruit a few hundred armed constables from amongst the members of a particular community of that province. Can you, Sir, explain this obvious contradiction between practice and profession? Why should again there be any special relaxation of the Communal Ratio Rules in respect of these appointments? Are Bengalis, Sir, whether they are Hindus or Muslims, not competent to work as armed constables in Calcutta? Have the armed police been always recruited from a particular community of the Punjab? I would ask the Chief Minister to seriously and dispassionately consider this position against the background of the recent tragic happenings. Does he or does he not consider that such a policy can have no other possible effect than to arouse the deepest anxiety and the most serious misgivings in the minds of members of the minority community? Even if his intentions were completely above board, which I doubt very much, can he reasonably expect the members of the minority community in view of what has recently happened to place any credence to his professed *bona fides*. Unless the Government were anxious to foment communal tension and distrust, I see no logic in the pursuit by them of such a deliberately provocative policy.

I would like in the second place to speak something about the Police Sergeants. As far as I know, there is no law or rule debarring members of other communities from being recruited as sergeants. Practice and convention alone are responsible for making these appointments a monopoly preserve for Anglo-Indians and Europeans. Again although they are not better qualified, nor are they given any more responsible work than Sub-Inspectors, their salaries are very much higher. Will the Chief Minister kindly explain why Government have not implemented the recommendation of the Hughes Committee for incorporating the sergeants in the cadre of Sub-Inspectors and also why they are given monopoly of certain types of work and certain departments like the Motor Vehicles Department?

In the third place I would like to draw your attention to certain change that has been brought about some time ago in the Police administration of Calcutta. Formerly important thanas were under the charge of Inspectors and the less important thanas under the charge of experienced Sub-Inspectors. Recently all the thanas have been placed practically under the charge of Sub-Inspectors. I appreciate that this has been done to enable Muslims to be placed in charge of these thanas. But at the same time duality of control has been introduced by organising a separate department manned by D.D.I.'s who have been given certain functions which previously vested in the thana officers.

Sir, time will not permit me to fully explain the changes. But I understand that the introduction of this change has been responsible not only for constant friction between the two types of officers but also for much less efficient service being rendered to the public. Will the Chief Minister kindly examine the matter and remedy any defect that may be revealed?

Finally, Sir, I should like to bring to your notice a very important matter, namely, the communal composition of the Police Force in Calcutta. Both the Deputy Commissioners of North Town and Suburbs and the South Town and Suburbs are today Muslims. (A VOICE FROM THE COALITION BENCHES: *बाक़नाब !*) May be. Of the four Additional Commissioners of Police who deal principally with law and order, two are Hindus and two are Muslims. The majority of the thana officers are Muslims. And all this in a city where the Muslim population is about 24 per cent. In normal times nobody would have bothered about this. I understand that both the District Deputy Commissioners for the past six years in Calcutta have been Muslims, but no complaint had ever been made by any Hindu on that score. It is only after the recent riots when the flagrantly communal predilections of Police officers became patent that there has been an insistent demand by the Hindu public for a change in the communal composition of the police officers in Calcutta. Numerous complaints, I understand, have been made against both the Deputy Commissioners but no action has been taken. The Chief Minister, in respect of the Deputy Commissioner, South, promised in another context to make an enquiry. We do not know if that enquiry has been made, and if so, with what result. Sir, the demand that has been put forward by the Hindus, I think, is quite legitimate unless the Government were to argue that it is the policy of the Government that the majority of police officers in a locality should belong to the community which is represented by the minority. If that is so, then that should be made applicable to the whole of Bengal and should apply to Noakhali, Tippera, Chittagong, Dacca and such other districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It does.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: But unfortunately that has not been done. The policy of the Government is "Heads I win, tails you lose". I wonder if the Chief Minister has ever been struck by the extreme incongruities of the political and administrative condition in Bengal where the majority community is not ashamed to ask and secure for itself on the strength of its inflated majority special privileges and safeguards and where laws are manufactured by the dozen to strangle the minority community. I wonder whether the Chief Minister has again been struck by the obvious hypocrisy of the Government policy as represented, in spite of all that he has said, by his attitude in regard to the Bihar refugees on the one hand and Noakhali and Tippera riot victims on the other. We are thankful to the Chief Minister—we have been reduced to such a strait that we are grateful for even small mercies—for his recent conciliatory public statements. Unfortunately, in the supercharged political and communal atmosphere prevailing in the Province, mere words cut no ice. Do I have to tell the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that one single deed untarnished by the virus of communalism will do more to carry trust and confidence in the minds of the members of the minority community than a ton of soothing and sugar-coated words?

Mr. A. F. STARK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100. In moving this I want to raise a discussion about the necessity for a substantial increase in the strength and equipment of the police force.

Sir, we are moving this cut motion because we do not consider that the police estimates adequately reflect the needs of this Province. We have said the same thing on many previous occasions, but the whole question of the strength and capacity of the police force has become of such vital importance that we feel it necessary to stress our views by cut motion. It is fundamental that there can be no development in this province unless law and order is maintained. The maintenance of peaceful conditions is the basis on which all our plans for increasing the standard of living of the

people of this province depend. Without law and order neither agriculture nor industry nor trade can prosper. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister emphasized in his budget speech that our financial stability and our revenues in the current year were dependent on the maintenance of peaceful conditions. These facts have, we know, been recognised by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in a number of recent statements. In his reply to the no-confidence debate in September last he stressed the inadequacy of the police forces in Calcutta and warned this House that considerable additional police expenditure would be necessary. In recent statements he has described the wave of lawlessness which has broken out in different parts of the province and has reiterated his determination to maintain law and order. In view of these statements it is astonishing that the police estimates do not disclose any substantial new proposals for increasing the strength and equipment of the police forces. It is true that last year substantial additional expenditure was included in the budget estimates for the current year and was voted by this House, but this was before the terrible events in Calcutta, Noakhali and Tippera, and it was before the Chief Minister stated that considerable additional police expenditure would be necessary. In the revised estimates for the current year the only additional expenditure is an increase of eight lakhs in the ordinary expenditure and an increase of 11½ lakhs in development expenditure. For the coming year the increase in the total estimate is due to the fact that Government has been unable to recover from the Government of India the anticipated contributions towards the expenditure on police. The plain fact which has emerged from the events of the past year is that the police forces for Calcutta and Bengal are only adequate to deal with normal circumstances. In the event of any serious outbreak of disorder they are dependent on military assistance. This is a dangerous position as military assistance at least in its present form may not be much longer available and it behoves us to see that our police forces are, as far as possible, able to stand on their own feet. The fact that our police forces are only adequate to deal with normal circumstances would not be a cause of serious concern if there was a reasonable prospect of normal conditions prevailing in the province. It is clear, however, that for a period of years we must be prepared for abnormal circumstances. In fact, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has himself told the House that there is a wave of lawlessness breaking out into violence and open defiance of authority in different parts of the province. The fundamental weakness, in our opinion, of our police forces is the ineffectiveness of the ordinary unarmed thana police in any emergency. The thana police are not trained or equipped to deal with disorders and when an emergency occurs, they are, for all practical purposes, withdrawn from action. Yet these thana police are the men on the spot with first-hand knowledge of the situation and with knowledge of local conditions. They should be the front line of any action to maintain law and order. The unarmed force of the Calcutta Police consists, I believe, of nearly 8,000 men and the unarmed force of the Bengal Police of nearly 26,000 men. We are spending a considerable sum of money on this force but I doubt whether anyone considers that we are getting real value for our money. It is surely wrong and exceedingly wasteful that this force should be of no practical use when disturbances occur. It would not surely require heavy expenditure to raise the standard of training and equipment of this force so as to enable it to be of practical use in dealing with disorders. What we would like to see is an immediate Government decision to go in for intensive training of the unarmed forces. We appreciate that police training facilities in the province are at present very limited. What we suggest is that Government recruit special and highly qualified police officers from other parts of India, and outside India if necessary, who will open training camps in different parts of the province and carry through a course of intensive training for the unarmed forces. A substantial initial expenditure on equipment will be necessary, but the recurring liability should not be heavy. It will also be necessary to increase the strength of

the thana police which, for an average district thana covering an area of many square miles, I believe, may only still consist of one sub-inspector, one assistant sub-inspector and 6 to 10 men. The armed reserve force should be maintained as a reserve to supplement the thana police who will form the front line of the striking force. The reserve force, if it is to be effective, must be highly mobile, must be stationed at strategic points throughout the Province, and must be equipped with modern weapons and with wireless communications. A great deal has been done in the past year to improve the mobility and equipment of the armed reserve forces, and I would like to pay tribute to the hard work done by the Heads of the two police forces and the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself in very difficult circumstances. But in our opinion, a good deal still remains to be done before this force will be able to give timely assistance in remote parts of the province. It is, in fact, only the thana forces who are able to take immediate action and, in our opinion, Government must concentrate on training and equipping the ordinary thana police to meet any emergency. The policeman on the spot must be converted into an all-weather and all-purpose policeman. The position with regard to the ordinary police duties of prevention and investigation of crime is equally unsatisfactory. There has been a serious increase in the number of thefts, robberies and dacoities, and the record of the police both in prevention and detection has been far from satisfactory. This aspect was stressed by the Rowlands Committee who expressed the view that the staff for criminal investigation and the staff for prosecution of offenders is inadequate. Government does not appear to have taken any action with regard to these recommendations. The fact is that the police forces are not trained in modern methods of prevention and detection of crime and proper facilities for giving this training do not exist in this province. There is a scheme for a detective training school which would provide this very necessary training, but no progress has apparently been made with this scheme and it is not included in the estimates for the coming year. Failure to deal with ordinary crime promotes goondaism and unless Government wish to see *goonda raj* established in this province they must take immediate action to secure an improvement in the prevention and detection of ordinary crime. This all comes back to raising the standard of training and equipment of the thana force. The police constable, I repeat, should be an all-weather and an all-purpose policeman and not as he is at present, a fair-weather policeman with very limited uses who vanishes when there is foul weather.

We hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will make a full statement of his proposals to ensure the maintenance of law and order. We have moved this cut motion because, in our opinion, the budget estimates do not disclose adequate proposals to do so.

Miss BINA DAS : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, বাংলাদেশে পুলিশের অত্যাচারের একটি বিশেষ দিকে আজ আমি পরিঘদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। বাংলার বিভিন্ন জেলার কৃষক আন্দোলন দমন করতে পুলিশের অত্যাচারের কাহিনী কিছুটা ধরবে কাগজে পড়েছি ও লোকমুখে শুনেছি তাদের মধ্যে সবচেয়ে আশঙ্কার কথা যে মহিলাদের উপর অত্যাচার দিন দিন বেড়ে চলেছে তার কতকগুলি ঘটনা এখানে উল্লেখ করতে চাই।

গত ৬ই ডিসেম্বর বরবন্সিংহের নেত্রকোণা "সিংহের বাংলা" ইউনিয়নের কয়েকটি গ্রাম পুলিশ আক্রমণ করে এবং গ্রামের মহিলাদের বলপূর্ব্বক ঘর থেকে টেনে বার করে আনে। সুসীম লীগের এম, এল, এ, মাননীয় আকবর আলী এই গৃহভঙ্গি পরিদর্শন করে নারীদের উপর এই অত্যাচারের উল্লেখ করে গত ৮ই ডিসেম্বর তারিখে এক বিবৃতি দেন।

গত ৮ই জানুয়ারী হাজংএ জিগাতলা গ্রামে পুলিশ বাহিনীতে ৩শর আক্রমণ করে। সেই সময় রাশেশ্বর নারক জনৈক ব্যক্তির স্ত্রী গুরুতরভাবে আহত হন ও তার তিন মাসের শিশুকে হত্যা করা হয়।

৩১শে জানুয়ারী পুলিশ বাহরতলী গ্রামের (নেত্রকোণা) কুমুদিনী নামে জনৈক রমণীকে চুল ধরিয়া টানিয়া লম্বা গ্রামের বুয়াইয়াছে। গ্রামবাসিনীরা বাধা দিতে গেলে পুলিশ ভয় পেয়ে (কুমুদিনীর কাঁধে বন্দুক রেখে) ও শিশুর দিকে অগ্নি একটি মহিলা নিহত হয়।

৪১ কেশুয়ারী তারিখে চাকমাগাড়া গ্রামে বিশেষ নারক এক বাড়ির স্ত্রী ও অপর একটি মহিলার উপর পুলিশ অত্যাচার করে।

১৮ই কেশুয়ারী তারিখে গুজারকুদিয়া গ্রামে পুলিশ একটি মহিলার উপর পার্থক্য অত্যাচার করিতে গেলে তাহার স্বামীর রাজকুমার শাস তাকে রক্ষা করিতে যান ও পুলিশের গুলিতে নিহত হন।

গত ২৩শে ডিসেম্বর দিশাজপুরের বসোরা গ্রামে পুলিশ বহু মহিলার উপর অত্যাচার করে।

গত ২০শে কেশুয়ারী বালুঘাট বহুকুমার বানপুর গ্রামে পুলিশের গুলিতে তিনজন মহিলা বারা যান। সেই দিনই ঠংরিয়া গ্রামে দুইটি মহিলাকে হত্যা করা হয়।

গত ১২ই ডিসেম্বর বেদিনীপুরে নশীগ্রাম থানার কয়েকটি মহিলার উপর পুলিশ অত্যাচার করে।

গত ১২ই কেশুয়ারী বালুঘাট জেলার কনোট গ্রামে একটি ৮২ বছরের বৃদ্ধকে শ্রম প্রহার করে অচেতন করে ফেলা হয়।

সবশেষে একটি খবর যা গত ৭ই মার্চ "ভারতে" উঠেছে (উত্তর বৈমন্সিং সহস্কে) —

"আদিবাসীদের স্ত্রীলোকদের গায়ে হাত দেওয়া, হাত ধরিয়া টানিয়া ঘরের বাহিরে আনা, এখান হইতে ওখানে দেওয়া, গায়ে কাপড় ধরিয়া টানাটানি করা পুলিশের বেওয়াজ হইয়া গিয়াছে। স্ত্রীলোকটি যদি কম বয়সের হয় তবে অত্যাচার উপভোগের মাত্রা আরও বাড়িয়া যায়। এক স্থান হইতে সংবাদ আসিয়াছে যে একটি স্ত্রীলোকের কাপড় টানিয়া নিয়া তাহাকে একেবারে উলঙ্গ করিয়া ফেলা হইয়াছিল। জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট বাল্লিন সাহেব ঐ স্থানেই ছিলেন।" কিছুদিন আগে আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দেশের অরাজকতার আশঙ্কা করে একটি বিবৃতি দিয়েছিলেন, কিন্তু তাঁর সেই বিবৃতির ভিতর পুলিশের এইসব অত্যাচারের কোন উল্লেখ করা তিনি প্রয়োজন মনে করেন নাই। কিন্তু আমরা তাঁর কাছে দাবী করছি তাঁর সমস্ত শক্তি দিয়ে কৃষক আন্দোলনকে দমন করার পূর্বে তাঁর অধীনস্থ পুলিশ কর্মচারীরা যে দিনের পর দিন খোরতর বেআইনী কাজ করে চলেছে সেইদিকে যেন দৃষ্টি দেন এবং গুরুতর অপরাধে অপরাধী জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ পুলিশ কর্মচারীদের উপযুক্ত শাস্তি দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেন।

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how many minutes I shall be allowed to speak?

Mr. SPEAKER: Five minutes.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Can I not get 10 minutes, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: No; I am sorry.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100.

I move this to raise a discussion about the uncalled for use of the Police force to suppress the *tebhaga* movement.

Sir, it is impossible for me to relate in five minutes all the crimes committed by the Government and its police force in Bengal during the last few months, but anyhow as you, Sir, do not wish to give me more time, I shall have to relate in summary at least about these atrocities of the police. The Government, as the last speaker has already pointed out, is guilty of breaking the law at every point. During the Noakhali and Calcutta outrages we found that Government broke the law by not allowing police or the police by itself not doing its duties by the citizens to protect their lives, honour, liberty and property. We find that this Government by not doing anything to build a decent standard of life for the citizens of our country, of Bengal, during the post-war years have goaded the people on to take action by themselves for their very life and existence. We find that this Government has given a go-by to all decent civilised laws. This Government is ruling the country through Ordinances—Ordinances by the dozens and of which Sir John Anderson of evil fame would be envious, and yet such a Government as this talks about law and order! I shall not go into the perfidious attack of the Government on the peaceful tramway

workers and their leaders. I shall not go into the outrage committed by the Government day before yesterday on the port workers where one man's arm had to be amputated. I shall only refer to the simple demand of our *kisans*, the *bargadars* for two-thirds share of paddy—a demand which has been supported as far back as 1940 by the Land Revenue Commission, but as soon as they make this demand, today, the *jotedar* elements inside the Muslim League supported by Mr. Suhrawardy, who is not a *jotedar*, rise in opposition and send all the police force that the Government is capable of to destroy the *kisan* movement, to dishonour their women, to set fire to the houses of these ordinary people. I should like to know, when Government talk about law and order, under which law, under which Ordinance, I should say, do they commit these outrages on the women, children and menfolk who are mostly villagers. I should like Mr. Suhrawardy to answer me under which law his police officers, his District Magistrate, Mr. Bastin, his officer Mr. Mazumdar in Mymensingh—burn their homes, dishonour their women. Mr. Suhrawardy will remember that I entreated him to go to this place himself, but he dared not go there. He dared not send even an official deputation of Muslim League M.L.A.'s, because he knows that his fond talks about *kisan* violence will be blown to the wind then. He knows that it will be found that *jotedars* and police officers have broken the law and not the *kisans*. Had the *kisans* wanted to break the law, as Mr. Suhrawardy wants to make out, had the communists taught violence to the *kisans*, then what police force has Mr. Suhrawardy at his command even today that would check that? I declare here and now that there is no police force in Bengal today which would crush this movement had we led them to the paths of violence. How many of the *jotedars* have been killed? How many of their homes have been destroyed, how many women—*jotedars'* wives and sisters been dishonoured by these *kisans*? Answer me this question if you can, Mr. Suhrawardy. People have been killed by the dozens and scores. Already I say 40 people have given their lives, if not more, for the simple demand of *tebhaga*. I have seen thousands of *kisans* have been sent to prison. Your prisons are being filled up by the *kisans*—Hindus as well as Muslims. But I say that they have not died in vain. These people—Sibaram and Samiruddin—who gave their lives by the bullets of the *jotedars* or Mr. Suhrawardy's police, they have not died in vain, they have lighted a torch in the countryside which no Bastin, no Doha, no Mazumdar or no Ministry will be able to extinguish. That is all I can say to this Ministry. Your Muslim voters will find you out. Yesterday two of the port workers watched their leaders in this House. Today there are two others in this House. They are seeing you. They ask me plaintively "can't we change them? Can't we do anything about these Ministers? We have voted for them. Why do they behave in this manner?". There are 12,000 of port workers who are Muslims. What have you done for them? In the name of law and order will you go on perpetuating such havoc on them, on the people of Bengal?

I am sorry I have no more time. I would have liked to pillory this Government point by point to show its lawless acts. I would ask the members of the Muslim League benches not to smile. Your time is coming very soon. Unless they behave in a decent fashion, they will be wiped out.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I beg to bring to your notice and through you I want to draw the attention of the House to the tragic events which occurred only day before yesterday at Kidderpore, a place not very far from this House. On an advice from my leader and accompanied by Dr. Mulek I had gone there. Therefore what I am speaking I am speaking from first-hand knowledge. The story is this. A strike of the employees of the Port Commissioners is going on for about a month. The day before yesterday the leaders of the strikers were holding consultation in a closed door room when the police proceeded there with a large number of police

force. This created an alarm in the locality and among the strikers also who apprehended that their leaders were going to be arrested or something wrong was going to be done to their leaders. I would like to mention, Sir, that such meetings were being held almost every day and on no other day the police had gone there in such a great number and in such a pomp and splendour. They had no business to go in that meeting. They should have known the atmosphere that was obtaining there. They should have known the psychology of the masses who had been suffering for the last one month due to continuance of this strike and they should have acted cautiously taking all these factors into consideration. That was the initial mistake they had committed. A rumour spread that the leaders of the Union had been arrested and those strikers who were sitting in their shelters came out. They came out not to commit any violence, not to carry on any procession or propaganda, but just to proceed to the union office to ascertain whether any of their leaders had been arrested or not. They were obstructed on the way by the police. That was the second mistake the police committed. It was their duty to explain to these people that none of their people were arrested or such and such persons were arrested. It was the duty of the police to allow the leaders of these people to proceed there and tell them the truth, but that was not done. May I state, Sir, what the actual position was. One of these people was arrested by the police who had gone there in a lorry with armed police. That arrest excited the strikers still more. They grew more agitated naturally. I cannot blame these strikers for having come out of their shelters on receipt of the rumour that their leaders have been arrested. I should rather congratulate them. We should be proud of such men who did not like to sleep in their rooms when their leaders were arrested, who did not like to take any action whatsoever of the police lying down. It was a matter of pride to us that they did not sleep in their rooms when their leaders had been arrested. I also congratulate them when they themselves wanted to be arrested when their leader was arrested, and not one alone. For, they said that if their leader was guilty, then they also were guilty. That is a conduct on the part of the strikers which, as I have said, no honourable person can take any objection to.

Sir, I do not know whether they committed any violence. I tried to find it out—both myself and Dr. Malik. We went to the police-station at Watgunge and wanted to hear their version. We had not been given any version. The officers of the thana were not only not communicative but their conduct was nothing short of an insult. We wanted a simple information as to how the leaders have been arrested. And if the officers of the police-station could show so much discourtesy to the members of the House, you can easily imagine to what extent they could be discourteous in their conduct and in their relations with the masses, with the strikers who are uneducated and who are illiterate. I cannot say whether any violence was committed by the strikers, but whether any violence was committed or not the main factor that has got to be enquired into is whether the police was justified in firing upon these people, for on that occasion two rounds were fired resulting in severe injuries to two persons. We went to the hospital to see them. One of them had already been amputated: the bullet had pierced into his chest which could not be extracted. I cannot say what his condition is today. The condition of the other person is also serious. There is one Mr. Serajul Mia lying in a precarious condition in the hospital as a result of *lathi* charges. That is the position, Sir, that is the story. Firing was resorted to and *lathi* charges were made upon the people, but we did not know what sort of violence these people were guilty of. We could not gather any news from the police officers. But as far as I have been able to gather, the strikers were not so much at fault. I addressed a meeting of the strikers—there were some 800 or 900 people. They were peaceful, they were calm and receptive and they were willing to obey whatever their leaders were going to tell them. I tell the Chief Minister that

an enquiry should be held into these incidents and the truth ought to be found out and if these officers out of their communalism or out of panic or out of vindictiveness had done anything wrong, had done so great injuries to our people, then they must be brought to book.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Sir, as I stand up to speak here today, may I refer to the speech that I made on the Police budget last year. At that time we had promises that so many things would be done but in reality we find that very little has been done.

Sir, in this year's budget we have done enough for the police: we have tried to increase their salary; we have given them facility of jeep cars, the facility of radio sets, etc., still I think there has been no change in the outlook of the police. The police instead of thinking themselves as servants of the people, think that they are the masters of the people, that they can do anything and everything with impunity, that they can fire on anybody or arrest anybody they like. We have strengthened the hands of the Government by passing several Security Acts and several Emergency Acts, but it is now high time that check should be put on them. I cannot but refer to the conduct of one police officer. The incident occurred in the Cossipore Refugee Camp only the other day. The Superintendent of Police went round the Refugee Camp and without any reason whatsoever he assaulted the refugees, beat them mercilessly and slapped a person who happened to be a Government official. Sir, nothing can be more condemnable than that. What does all this mean? For a respectable Police Superintendent claiming British nationality as his birth-right and posing to be an educated gentleman coming from Oxford or Cambridge, to go armed and assault an unarmed Indian official, is too much. So I wish that a thorough enquiry should be made. It is high time that, as these British people are telling that they are leaving India by June 1948, none of these officers should be kept in the service of the Bengal Government. This very officer whose name is Mr. Adams is soon going to be placed in charge of police at Dacca which has earned notoriety in communal disturbances. He will set the communal passion ablaze if he goes to Dacca. I would request the Chief Minister with all the emphasis that I command not to send a man of Mr. Adams' calibre to Dacca, because we are apprehensive from his conduct at the Cossipore Refugee Camp.

Now, Sir, due to the police atrocities in Dacca, my information is that as many as 41 persons were shot dead. I do not know what enquiries have been made against such police officers, but none of them has been brought to book. Then, Sir, at dead of night during the curfew one man named Fazlul Huq was shot dead without any reason. He should have been arrested and taken to the thana, but he was arrested and shot at. This police action in Dacca was also justified. Not only that. There in Dacca in August, 1943, two trains were attacked, the number of deaths were 5 and injured 15, but still no single offender was brought to book. So, Sir, these are the samples of high-handedness of the police.

I think as we are considering their cases very favourably about their equipment, about their facilities and about their service conditions, it is high time that they should have a change in their mental outlook towards the public. I do not say that firing is always unjustified. It may be that there may be occasions to open fire, but indiscriminate firing is the last thing that one can think about for the police to resort to who go by the name of our Government.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to oppose the out motions moved by my friends on the other side, I must say that

allegations have been made against the police from both sides of the House today and I am not here—I have not been briefed either by the police or by the department—to defend them.

Mr. Stark from the other block has said rightly—and I agree with him and I appreciate what he has said—about the strengthening of the police force and the supply of equipments. My friends on the opposite, if they are patient to give me a hearing, will also agree with me that the police force should be strengthened and modern equipments should be supplied to them. Mr. Stark has not made it quite clear but he has hinted that the British armed force in the Fort William, will not be available to us for long to protect us and to save us. When saying so, evidently he meant the recent statement of Mr. Clement Attlee made in the House of Commons regarding the future of India. I am not here to defend or prosecute anybody, but the fact remains that when the last riots broke out in Calcutta, everybody began to ask for police and military help by telephone. When these things will repeat again, nobody will come from the Fort even if you spend hours over the telephone. Even this morning I have read in the newspapers that some Congress leaders asked for more police force and more military aid in Benares. Troubles have already started there. Nobody knows when the same will start where. After June, 1948, it appears, Bengal will be left as it stands at the present moment only with the police force and nothing else. So, whether we sit on these benches and you sit on the opposite benches or whether we change sides, that matters little. But the question is that protection will be required. As I have said once more on the floor of this House, I want to make it clear today also that law, order and good Government have to be maintained at all costs, no matter in whose hands the power lies. But the question is when the British force will be withdrawn only 12 or 13 months after, then you will be left to your own fate. Then you require the police to protect your lives and properties, to protect your honour and to protect you from all oppression and lawlessness. That fact cannot be denied. Of course, in saying so, I do not contend for a moment that there is no excess committed by the police, that there are no bad individual officers, that there is no misconduct on the part of the individual police officers or police constables. Certainly there are. I do not for a moment say that they should be defended. If they are delinquent, if they are guilty, they should be brought to book by all means and under all circumstances under the existing law. Certainly they should be punished. I hope everyone will agree with me on that point. In this connection I may refer to the question that was raised just a minute ago about the excesses committed by the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Adams of Burdwan. That has appeared in the *Morning News* of today. A report has appeared in the newspaper in the name of Mr. Abul Hashem, a member of this House and Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League, about the oppressions committed by the Superintendent of Police of Burdwan, Mr. Adams. If it is a fact, certainly it must be condemned and an enquiry must be made and he must be brought to book. If it is a fact, he has brought slur on the British nationals not only in India but in England as well.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I am taking my stand simply to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to a feature of rural Bengal, namely, the uncertainty of life and property prevailing there. Thefts, robberies, burglaries, dacoities with murders are a daily occurrence both in river and on land. The thana staff is not only inefficient but under-manned to cope with the work. General lawlessness, disorder and the general tendency for agitation from all quarters have increased the duties of the thana staff. The location of thanas is unsatisfactory. In different parts they are situated in such a way that the main areas of their jurisdiction are away from the touch with the thana. There are no outposts to look to. I therefore draw the attention of the Home Minister to increase the thana staff at once at least by double with efficient men. Adjustment

of the location of thanas should be aimed at and filling of permanent outposts—both in river and on land, should start immediately at least with one sub-inspector, one assistant sub-inspector and constables. There is the practice that whenever necessary the Subdivisional Officer requisitions armed police from district headquarters; this takes time for the party to come in. I would draw the attention of the Home Minister to the fact that in these days of agitation and lawlessness a detachment of armed police should be stationed at subdivisional headquarters to be at the beck and call of the Subdivisional Officer, under an armed inspector.

There is a system of rural policing maintained by union boards. They maintain daffadars, and chaukidars. But I submit, Sir, they are disgracefully low paid, so low paid that it is not worthy of mention in this House. They are not trained people; they have to attend to other duties for their daily square meals. In addition to policing duties they have to discharge other municipal duties, viz., serving of summons, collecting of reports of death and birth, as well as of epidemic. Sir, these inefficient, untrained and low-paid chaukidars and daffadars cannot discharge their duties well. Here, Sir, there is a preferential treatment between urban population and rural population. Government should abolish this system and mete out equal treatment to urban population and rural population. Sir, in this metropolis people with prosperity and happiness and all sorts of enjoyment are not to pay for their policing, for security of their life and property, but the rural people have been asked to shoulder responsibility and arrange for their own policing. Everybody knows that the union boards maintain these daffadars and chaukidars spending almost all of their rates realized from the rate-payers and keeping nothing for nation-building activities, such as, sanitation, education, irrigation, drainage and other activities.

Sir, the income of the Calcutta Corporation is equal to or even greater than that of the province of Assam. Still the Corporation is not asked to shoulder responsibility to any extent of the policing of Calcutta, whereas the rural population has been asked to do so. Sir, in the regime of the first Ministry under this Act of 1935 there was agitation and a strong voice was raised from that side as well as from this side of the House that it was inequitable and that preferential treatment should be abandoned, and the then Government started an Enquiry Committee, the results of which have been embodied in a report. I do not know and so I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister one thing. He told us previously that after the war, in normal time, the recommendations will be taken up. Sir, those recommendations are very salutary, and I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister—

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit.)

Sir, one minute more.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can speak for half a minute more.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether that report has been buried in the dust of the shelf of the Secretariat or it has been eaten up by white ants and rats. Will the Hon'ble Minister here and now say whether this Government is going to examine the recommendations of the Chaukidary Enquiry Committee and whether this Government is going to shoulder the responsibility of rural policing as recommended by that Committee?

Mr. ASAN ALI MUKTEAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motions with the following considerations. Establishment of police force is essentially necessary for the maintenance of law and order. Except for the assistance of police we are unable to protect our lives and properties from the hands of thieves, dacoits and *goondas*. When we depend so much on them they should always be dutiful and should not do anything in abuse of their power. Their oppressions are an every day tale in the mufassal.

They arrest the accused and absconders and beat them mercilessly. Corrupt practices are also prevalent in them in a great degree. I bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to take adequate steps for putting a stop to police oppression and corruption. I like to bring to the notice of the Chief Minister to maintain Hindu Muslim parity in this department. The Muslim number is very insignificant in comparison with that of the Hindus. I do not know whether the police have exceeded their duty in suppressing the *tebhaga* agitation in Singher Bangla and Susang. But I cannot say that the communists created a lawless agitation there, and thus brought many innocent men to trouble.

With these few remarks, Sir, I oppose the cut motions.

Mr. AKBAR ALI: Sir, shall I get one minute? I have got to say something about the remarks made by an honourable lady member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. AKBAR ALI: I rise to give a contradiction to the remarks of an honourable lady member, in the course of which she has referred to one of my statements regarding *tebhaga* movement in the Singher Bangla area. Sir, it is not a fact that there was any atrocity on the part of the police. When I went to the locality I found a sight which the villagers reported to be an atrocity on the womenfolk by the police. They showed me some signs reported to be police atrocity. But the sight I saw there was not unnatural. At least it was not so much unnatural that it may be called a very atrocious kind of oppression on the part of the police. Along with this I cannot but pass a remark upon the attitude of the communist party in the Susang area. In the Susang area two Muslim constables were killed outright on the spot by the Hajangs and thus, I should say, was done by the excitement of the communist party there. I would say that this is a very regrettable thing. I tell the communist party that they may do anything in connection with the *tebhaga* movement or any other economic movement with which we have got every sympathy, but they must not take recourse to violence in putting forward their grievances and their demands.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motions.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN: মিঃ স্পীকার, যার, Opposition Bench-এর পক্ষ থেকে আজ বড় মেজাজে পুলিশ বিভাগের কার্যের তদন্ত নিষ্পত্তি করেছেন, আমিও পুলিশের কার্যের তদন্ত করি। কিন্তু আমি এই হাউসের দুটি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই যে আজ পুলিশ বিভাগ যারা যিহের আছে তাদের শতকরা ৭০-৮০ ভাগ হচ্ছে আমাদের Opposition Bench-এর হাউসের দ্বারা অবিলম্বে (A voice: আহা! আহা!)। পুলিশ বিভাগের কম্পচারীদের মধ্যে আজ মুসলমান কম্পচারীর সংখ্যা খুবই কম। এখানে হিন্দু কম্পচারী দ্বারা অধুসিত এবং এই সমস্ত হিন্দু পুলিশ থাকার ফলে আজ বাংলাদেশে কোন হুট বা হাউসের কোন আন্দোলন হচ্ছে না। হিন্দু পুলিশ অধিকাংশ মুসলিম লীগের ন্যায় পাকিস্তান আন্দোলনের উপর চমকিত চালায়ে যাচ্ছে— (“Question”, “Question”, noise and disturbances.) আজ বাংলাদেশের মুসলিম লীগ প্রতিকাষের বিশেষ কোন কম্পচারী অবলম্বন করছেন না। হাউস আমি মাননীয় সোহরাওয়ার্দী সাহেবের দিকে একটি দুটি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। বহুদিন যাবৎ লীগ মিলিটী নানাভাবে কাজ করে আসছেন, চুপা হিন্দু মুসলমান দুই সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে একটি parity বাগানের বলেছিলেন, এবং এ সম্পর্কে একটি circularও জারী করা হয়েছিল। কিন্তু এতে যে কি প্রতিফলন হবে তা আমি বুঝতে পারি না। এই পুলিশ বিভাগের যদি কোন ব্যর্থতা না হয়, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায় নানা হুতা হবে পুলিশ ও কম্পচারী দ্বারা বাংলাদেশের শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা নষ্ট করবে, যেমন নীচ কবিতায়ে নষ্ট করেছে। (Noise and disturbances from the Opposition Bench.) আমি নেয়াখানী সংকে দু-একটা কথা বলে আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করতে চাই। বিগত October-November মাসে নেয়াখানীতে যে সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গা হয়, তাই ভদ্র আমি অত্যন্ত দুঃখিত (A voice: আহা! আহা!)। কিন্তু আমার বক্তৃতা হিন্দু বোম্বারগন শ্রাবণ করেন কি, যে তাঁদের বক্তৃতা পুলিশ কম্পচারী দ্বারা নেয়াখানীর মুসলমানদের উপর কি না অত্যাচার হয়েছে। (Continued interruption from Opposition Benches.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I do appeal to the Opposition to give the honourable member a chance with the same consideration with which we have listened to what they have had to say. There is no reason why the Opposition should be so pleased to hear that the police in Noakhali have been oppressing the Muslims.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN: সত্য কথা বললেইতো আমার Oppositionএর বন্ধুরা সহ্য করতে পারেন না। নোয়াখালীতে এক হিন্দু দারোগা, ১৪-১৫ জন মুসলমানকে গুলী করে মেরেছে। বিভিন্ন জায়গায়--বেগমপুত্র, দশমরা, কচুয়া, সোনাইমরী প্রভৃতি জায়গার হিন্দু পুলিশ কর্মচারী মুসলমানদের গুলী করে হত্যা করেছে। প্রায় ৩০ জন লোক হাঁসপাতালে ভুতি হয়; তার মধ্যে মাত্র চারটি লোক অসামী ছিল আর বাকী সবাই কোন অপরাধে ভুতি ছিল না। যে সমস্ত লোককে গুলীর দ্বারা নিহত করা হয়েছে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে কোন মোকদ্দমা ছিল না (shame, shame)। যখন গুলী ছোড়া হয়েছে তখন সেখানে কোন গুণগোল বা হাঙ্গামা ছিল না। নোয়াখালীতে যখন কোন গুণগোল ছিল না সেই সময় রাস্তা দিয়ে হেঁটে মুসলমানগণ মাঠে কাচ কবতে যাচ্ছিল, এমন সময়ে হিন্দু পুলিশ কর্মচারী তাদের উপর অত্যাচার করে এবং তাদের উপর গুলী ছোড়ে। আমার সময় নেই, তা না হলে অত্যাচারের অনেক কথাই বলতে পারতাম। সন্দীপে কতকগুলি নিরীহ মুসলমানের উপর হিন্দু পুলিশ গুলী ছোড়ে এবং তাহার ফলে ১১ ব্যক্তি আহত অবস্থায় হাঁসপাতালে যায়, এবং তাহার ভিতর ৫ জনের মৃত্যু হয়। কিন্তু বুকের বিষয় আজও এই সমস্ত অবিচারের কোন প্রতিকার হয়নি। আজ এই মাত্র এই হাউসে শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবু ধমক দিয়ে যে বক্তৃতা দিয়াছেন সেটা অত্যন্ত লজ্জার বিষয়। তিনি যদি ন্যায় বিচার করতে প্রস্তুত না হ'ন, হিন্দু-মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে যদি parity রক্ষা করতে প্রস্তুত না হ'ন, তাহলে তাঁর চেষ্টার দ্বারা বাংলাদেশে কখনও শান্তি রক্ষা হতে পারবে না।

Mr. MAHAMMAD OWAIS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the police is one of the most important parts of the administration. I think that so long as we live in this world the police force is necessary. We have been driven out by God from heaven and we are now in hell. So long as we do not raise our moral standard, we shall not be free from crime and dishonesty and so long the police force is necessary. But we see corruption and dishonesty are rampant in the very department of police which will keep us in peace. Whenever we utter the word "police", naturally the words "dishonesty" and "corruption" rise in our mind, as if they are synonymous terms. Now we must raise our moral. If we can rise above all meanness, if we can rise above all disputes and all communalism, we will be able to bring in a budget in which we can abolish the expenditure on police.

Now, Sir, I shall speak something about the mofussil. The police in the mofussil is a terror to the public. They go out from the thanas as if they are masters of the public. Police are unapproachable to the people. When a first information has got to be lodged in the thana, we find how the police treat with us. When the first information is lodged and an enquiry is made, we see that in spite of there being the best evidence the accused are let off and the informants are put to difficulty. I think there should be some department of Government to remove corruption and dishonesty in the Police Department. If these are not removed we cannot expect justice from this department. With these words, Sir, I conclude my observations on the Police Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several important issues have been raised from various parts of the House which I think require elucidation from the side of Government. I shall begin, Sir, with the first speaker. I regret that the charges made by the honourable member are so vague that I cannot reply to them. I deny, Sir, there has been any favouritism or nepotism in the police service or, for the matter of that, in any part of the administration—(Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Question!) It is with the greatest care that we consider each movement, and each promotion is made on merits and on general consideration keeping the efficiency of the administration in view. Sir, it is also not a fact that we have been placing communal-minded officers in several districts. It is unfortunate that under the present tension prevailing throughout India our

officers in various departments of the services have not been left entirely untouched. I hope that very soon the situation will so develop that the only matter that they will keep in view will be a proper and a fair administration and the communal virus that may have entered into some of them will be eradicated. It is equally, Sir, not a fact that the police firing which has been necessitated in certain places has been largely due to any bungling or mismanagement on their part or it is due to the fact that they have not taken hold of the agitation betimes and have allowed the situation to grow worse. There are two sides to this question. One is expressed by those gentlemen who come from the Congress party and the other by Mr. Jyoti Basu where he has suggested that the police have taken undue measures and that the situation did not warrant it. The fact is that the agitation carried on by—may I say—a certain section of communist agitators has led to consequences which I think they themselves could not have foreseen. I will not suggest for a moment that they intended that the persons whom they were organising should resort to violence, but unfortunately that is what occurred. And the sooner—if I may say so—the same communist agitators appeal to their men whom they have got roused, to withdraw from violence and illegal action I think the better for the peace of the province. After all it is not the duty of Government to stop any legal action which may be taken in pursuance of any agrarian agitation but when that agitation descends to the level of lawlessness and when persons are so actuated by the agitation regarding the *tebhaga* movement as to go to the villages and excite people to loot the granaries of jotedars, then I must say that Government is bound to stop any such movement. If, for instance, warrants issued, legal warrants issued by a court of law are obstructed from being served, then the dignity and the prestige of that court of law must be upheld. If warrants legally issued by a court of law are obstructed, if persons legally arrested are sought to be rescued, and the police force, and even to such an extent that the armed police force, is attacked, then I am afraid that Government cannot sit back and allow the run of lawlessness to continue.

Sir, I find Dr. Suresh Banerji has referred to the oppression by the Calcutta Traffic Police on the bus-drivers of Calcutta. He has suggested that the numbers of buses ought not to be taken quietly but that a bus-driver should be informed when he is transgressing the law. I wish we could do that, but when the offence happens to be that the buses are driven at a speed at which it is impossible for the police to overtake them or when they race against each other and endanger human lives and endanger pedestrians, I am afraid, it is not possible at that moment to warn these bus-drivers so that they may hand over chips and they may know and they may produce evidence to the contrary. Looking at the figures, I find that they are by no means atrocious, as might be suggested by the speech of Dr. Suresh Banerji. There are say about 549 buses on the roads and within six months there were only 681 offences against traffic of which 457 have been obstruction cases and only 68 cases of disobedience of the traffic police signals. Sir, we and the unfortunate pedestrians of Calcutta who have some experience of the manner in which these buses are driven will agree that the cases are not such as to warrant the remarks of Dr. Suresh Banerji.

Sir, I will at this stage refer to the Kidderpore incident somewhat *in extenso*, the reason being that you were good enough yesterday to disallow the adjournment motion on grounds which I may humbly say were substantial and adequate that the matter may be mooted during the course of the discussion of the Police budget. It is for that reason that I think a fuller reply is called for than is generally given during the budget discussion.

Sir, from the remarks made by the honourable member who moved the cut motion or who spoke on the subject, one would think that the crowd against whom the police took action were just a set of sheep or lambs or docile people and the police had suddenly swooped down upon them and

started firing. Sir, many have been the cases that have been brought from time to time to my notice alleging police oppression and I wish to assure the House that in every single case an enquiry has been instituted at once. (Mr. JYOTI BASU: By whom?) By the Government—that is by myself—and not by Mr. Jyoti Basu. An enquiry has been instituted at once and we have examined the reports as we received them and if a further enquiry has been called for, a further enquiry has been made and steps have been taken. Sir, I must say in defence of the police that in most cases—I would not say in all cases—they have had to take this action on account of the rising wave of lawlessness which has swept over the country. Who is responsible for this? (Mr. JYOTI BASU: You.) I would put it down—and here I hope, Sir, that it will not be taken as a remark against any particular party, I am merely giving a historical background—I would put it down to the wave of lawlessness deliberately engineered not so far back as 1942. Since then there has been instance after instance when the police have been defied, when law has been defied and when some people thought that they could take law into their own hands. (Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What about Punjab?) The police, Sir, have been working under very difficult circumstances. Undoubtedly, Sir, their nerves have been strained and in many cases it may just be that they have used force beyond requirement. But if they see before themselves persons marching on to them who refuse to disperse when called upon to do so, when they have to bear the brunt of brickbats, of rods and of lathis, when persons come up to them and assault them, it is not possible for anybody—not even for the very patient—to keep quiet. I may give them this credit that persons who have actually seen incidents for themselves—and I am speaking of persons not from one side of the House but from both sides of the House—persons who have been eye-witnesses have come to me and have congratulated the police on the patience they have shown under the most provocative circumstances. I do not give the police a clean bill. There have been several instances where they have used, as I have said, force and violence beyond the requirement of the situation and, as I have said before, in every single case I made an enquiry and took appropriate steps.

Now, to come to the Kidderpore incident. I would ask the House to judge whether the police at that moment were dealing with sheep and lambs and docile creatures or with persons who had absolutely lost their balance at that moment and were bent on causing obstruction of every single kind. I shall read out more or less the police report *in extenso* and those persons who have seen the thing for themselves may know what the facts are. (Mr. JYOTI BASU: Whose report?) Not the report of Mr. Jyoti Basu. An Inspector with four unarmed constables, having received a telephone message from a constable that some men were creating a disturbance on the Hyde Road, proceeded immediately to the crossing of Hyde Road and the Circular Garden Reach Road and found that a number of Port Commissioners' coolies—between 40 to 50—were collected at the crossing. They were standing in front of the lorry and refusing to allow it to proceed along the Circular Garden Reach Road. The driver complained that he was restrained from proceeding on the road. My friends on the opposite side would say that these poor coolies were perfectly justified in restraining the people. (Mr. JYOTI BASU: I say nothing. That is the police report.) It is the report of the driver. Then there were certain persons standing in front of the lorry and they were apprehended for obstruction. The honourable members must remember that section 144 is still in operation in Calcutta. As soon as the arrest was effected and the four accused placed on a police lorry, the remaining coolies collected and demanded their release and rushed to the lorries to rescue those who had been apprehended. There was at once a general outcry amongst the coolies who requisitioned the assistance of other coolies from the cooli lines on the Hyde Road. By this time the crowd had swelled to 100 to 150 persons and it continued to swell. Then the Inspector had no other alternative but to order that these four persons who

had been apprehended were to be escorted immediately to the thana by some of the constables. There was no charge upon those persons who had collected or who were obstructing and no firing on them. As soon as these persons were removed, brickbats started being thrown at the police. (Mr. JYOTI BASU: Brickbats all the time.) Please tell them not to throw brickbats all the time. If they throw brickbats all the time, they are going to have *lathi* charges and bullets all the time.

I really fail to understand this. Here is a gentleman who instead of being ashamed of having excited these poor, unfortunate people, is sitting here. He is not bearing the brunt of it. It is these unfortunate coolies who are bearing the brunt of this agitation and of this excitement. Then, Sir, another sergeant with a lorry patrol came to the assistance of the Inspector on hearing from an officer of a certain company that the Inspector was being mobbed by a crowd of persons. The strikers were warned of the existence of an order under section 144, but no amount of reasoning would appeal to the strikers. They were bent upon rescuing those persons who had been arrested. By that time a force of sepoy of Port Police under the command of two officers arrived who received information that there was a truculent crowd at Hyde Road. The crowd was then repeatedly requested to disperse. Please note that in spite of all this up till now no offensive action was taken by the police. They were repeatedly requesting to disperse but the crowd had become extremely truculent and out of control and was brickbating the police. *Lathi* charges were then ordered but that had no effect. Instead the entire mob began brickbating the police. The strikers were again warned that if this thing did not cease, police would have to resort to firing. But they would not listen. The situation deteriorated so considerably that Inspector Jennings ordered Port Police to load and issued instructions that a single shot should be fired at a time. I would like the honourable members to appreciate the manner, the restraint that has been used by the Police, because they have been told that particularly in a matter like this when they are dealing with labour dispute they must deal with it as carefully as possible and should not resort to violence except under extreme circumstances. After this if there is interruption on the other side, I am afraid that it will be well-advised, if I may be permitted to say so, to remove the obstructionists from the floor of the House. (Mr. JYOTI BASU: That is for the Speaker to see.) However, the situation deteriorated so considerably that the Inspector ordered, as I have said, that a single shot should be fired at a time. One shot was fired but the brickbating continued from all directions. Then a second round was fired under orders. The crowd dispersed into the coolie line continuing to threaten and abusing Police. As a result of the firing two of the strikers were removed to the Dock Hospital by the strikers and later admitted into the Port Emergency Hospital. They were suffering from gun-shot wounds. The Assistant Commissioner, Port Police, proceeded to the spot and he was informed by a manager of a very important Company that his lorries were obstructed and there was a truculent crowd in Hyde Road. After the situation was brought under control, a customs peon came up with the complaint that just prior to the arrival of police he was going along the Hyde Road to deliver certain papers when he was waylaid by a crowd of strikers and assaulted and robbed of four rupees even when he told them that he was a Customs employee. Sir, this is not a trade dispute of Port Commissioners or of Port Trust employees, but it has been degenerating into robbery and violence. In addition another gentleman of another important company—I am deliberately keeping out his name, because these are matters that may go to a court of law—when he was proceeding to work at quarter past one he was waylaid by 200 strikers armed with iron rods and *lathies*, was assaulted and relieved of cash, a fountain pen, a wrist watch and a gold ring. (A VOICE: Is he a Hindu or a Muslim?) He was a Hindu gentleman. Another Hindu gentleman, a manager of another company in Hyde Road, complained that his lorry containing fertilisers was obstructed by some strikers at Circular

Garden Reach Road prior to the arrival of police. Five policemen have been injured—one Inspector, a head constable, one constable and two armed sepoy. Of the strikers five persons were injured all of them suffering from gun-shot wounds.

After that at 3 p.m. 200 strikers collected outside the police-station demanding the release of men apprehended in Hyde Road. They were dispersed and they had again collected and tried to hold a meeting. Police from Watgunge arrived and dispersed the crowd and arrested the Secretary of the Port Trust Employees Union. The reason, I understand, of this demonstration was, if I may so put it, an unfounded rumour that Mr. Nepal Bhattacharjee, President of the Port Trust Association, who was holding a meeting within the precincts of a closed place, had been arrested. But as a matter of fact he was not arrested. He came out with the police officers, showed himself to the crowd and requested them to return, but such was the truculence of the crowd, as I have said, that the situation developed as it did. I hope, Sir, that the House will agree with me that the police only acted when they had no other alternative and took action after the gravest provocation.

I now come to some comments regarding D.D.I.'s and the police force of Calcutta. The scheme of placing a certain number of detective Inspectors in charge of some thanas was inaugurated several years ago for the purpose of expediting, and not only expediting but having investigations conducted by properly trained officers. It may be, Sir, that some officers in charge of thanas do not like it as it takes away some of their powers and their prestige, but up till now I do not think—this is a question which I am examining—there is any very forceful argument put forth for the abandonment of the scheme. The honourable member has referred to the communal composition of the police force and has said that although since the last ten years or so, both the Deputy Commissioners of Calcutta, North and South, have been Hindus, they have not made any complaints, but they are making complaints now. It is not necessary for me to pay any compliments to these Deputy Commissioners, but it must be admitted that in spite of certain apprehensions which were voiced at the time of the appointment of the Deputy Commissioner, North, it has been found that these apprehensions have been wholly unjustified and that the Deputy Commissioners are acting with the utmost impartiality and efficiency. An honourable member has suggested that he would agree if what is done here in Calcutta is also done in Noakhali and Tippera. For instance, if we have put more Muslim police officers in Calcutta,—as a matter of fact we have not, and the fact is that amongst the subordinate officers, *i.e.*, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors the Hindu element preponderates, as it does amongst constables,—armed and unarmed he said he would agree provided in Noakhali and Tippera more Hindu officers were placed. As a matter of fact there are far more Hindu officers in Noakhali and Tippera than Muslim officers and that is definitely the cause of grievance on the part of some members of the Ministerialist Party. This is a matter which I am looking into and we shall try and adjust and treat both the places in exactly the same manner.

Sir, now, a reference has been made to the recruitment of Punjabi Muslims into the Armed Forces in Calcutta. I take complete responsibility for this. Unfortunately, the situation in Calcutta after the 16th of August made it quite clear that it would not be possible for us to keep the peace here unless there was a strong addition to the Armed Forces in Calcutta. The question arose from where should the additional men be brought. It has been said why have the Communal Ratio Rules been abrogated in the recruitment to these Armed Forces. As a matter of fact the Communal Ratio Rules do not apply to the recruitment to armed forces. It is for this reason that in Calcutta during the time of the riots out of 1,264 or some figure like that of the Armed Police in Calcutta as many as 1,200 were

Hindus and 64 only were Muslims. (Cries of "Shame, Shame" from the Muslim League benches.) It is said, Sir, that it was largely on that account that Muslims were allowed to be massacred in several areas in Calcutta.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What about the massacre of Hindus? Are there not areas in which Hindus were massacred?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Whatever it is, that is a matter which has formed the subject-matter of enquiry. (Loud noise from the Opposition benches.) Whatever may have been the result there can be no question about this that it was brought home to Government very forcibly that it was necessary not only to increase the Armed Forces in Calcutta but also to increase it with Muslim personnel. (A voice from the Opposition Bench: Why do you not take in Bengalis?) For the reason that it is not possible to train an armed Bengali force at once. Honourable members know that the policy of Government is to recruit Bengalis into armed police and Bengalis are being recruited, but they ought to know that it is not possible to create an armed force at a moment's notice. It was therefore found necessary to recruit from amongst those who had returned from the War. The Punjabi Muslims who were therefore recruited, are all veteran fighters, had seen the actual warfare and are under strict discipline. Those of us who have been watching the morals of the Calcutta Police and the way in which the situation has been subsequently handled, can have no hesitation in saying that the arrival of this force has considerably strengthened the morale of the police and has given power into the hands of the Commissioner of Police by which he will be able adequately to deal with any disturbances that may take place in Calcutta in future.

Sir, Mr. Stark has made a very powerful plea for the increase in the strength of the police force. I wish I could go through all the points he has raised. I shall try my best to do so. He has been misled by the fact that there has been no considerable increase since the termination of the War, into thinking that there has been no increase in the police personnel. What had been done during the War was that a number of police were drafted for War purposes, and the object at that moment was that this police force would be disbanded as soon as the War ceased. War time needs are now over but this police force, instead of being disbanded, has been maintained; secondly, there has not been any accretion in the budget of this year and in the last budget. Therefore we maintain that there has been an accretion in normal police force in Bengal and in Calcutta, because the personnel of the police who were on duties connected with the war has been drafted into the ordinary police personnel. Although I admit that it is necessary to strengthen the police force, I would also like to stress the point that in order to preserve law and order and peace in Bengal, the co-operation of the public is necessary. From this point of view we are considering the question of the creation of defence parties and of bringing into being some organisation as we had of Home Guards in the form of National Service Organisation in which we hope members of the public will participate for the purpose of seeing that law and order are preserved in the rural areas.

As far as chowkidars and datadars are concerned, we have taken that matter in hand: we have not put the Chowkidari Report into oblivion. We have agreed that there should be a reduction in the number of chowkidars and datadars and that their designation should be changed into *mahalladars* and *havildars*. Their pay will be increased and they will be retained whole-time to keep order in the rural area, acting as rural police. We are increasing their status. And as far as their expenses are concerned, their expenses will continue to be met as heretofore by the union boards. The extra expenditure will be met by Government, and to counter-balance that Government propose to impose a tax on municipalities as a contribution towards the police expenditure. I hope the honourable member will be satisfied with this reply.

Sir, Mr. Stark has raised a very important point, namely, the strengthening of the personnel of the unarmed police and of making them the first fighting force to receive the shock of the first attack in lawlessness until the arrival of the armed force. He has suggested, although I believe he has not said as such, that this unarmed force should be provided with adequate weapons so that they may be able to use them before the armed police are brought into the field. This is a matter which requires very great consideration. It is, I think, too far-fetched a step to turn the unarmed force in Bengal, as they are trained in a particular manner, somewhat ineffective, to deal with large crowds, into an armed force. After all, dealing with large crowds implies at the same time not a small fighting force but a far larger fighting force in which trained and experienced officers will be with them so that they may not fall easy victims to any mob excesses.

The honourable member, I am glad to say, has recognised the fact that we are taking steps to provide the police with materials. We have provided them with a large number of lorries in Bengal. In Midnapore we have given as many as 66 lorries, 34 D.W. carriers, 4 prison vans, and 34 motor cycles. In Calcutta we have given 13 lorries, 40 trucks and 10 jeep cars. We are having wireless stations in all the district and subdivisional towns and we have provided Calcutta with static and mobile wireless sets. We have increased the armed force in various parts of Bengal, and as I have said before, those persons who had been recruited for war purposes are being maintained. In August, 1945, there was an increase in the armed branch of the police force. In March, 1946, we have increased the Provincial Reserve to 1,500 people. There are five extra companies of armed force in the Calcutta Police. Then we have recruited, as I have said before, 134 Non-Commissioned Officers and 609 sepoy in Calcutta, and we are considering strengthening the armed force in Greater Calcutta to meet any situation that might arise.

I wish in particular to refer, before I sit down, to the point regarding the Muslim parity which has been raised by the members on this side of the House. I have examined the figures. Sir, it is unfortunately too true that the manner in which the police service has hitherto carried on, has resulted in the paucity of Muslim officers in several departments of the force. It is necessary that they should be brought up to parity, and I have taken steps for the purpose of examining the situation not only in the police department but in other branches of the administration in order that we may devise some measure for the purpose of bringing about a parity. This is a matter which, I am glad to say, has received support from Honourable the Leader of the Opposition himself. It is not possible to place Hindus and Muslims in parity throughout Bengal unless they are in parity in the administration itself, and therefore it has become necessary for us to take steps in that direction.

Before I sit down I would like to pay a tribute to the police force. Sir, I am glad to say that the morale of the police force has improved considerably but, as I have said before, I do not give them a clean bill. I have examined each case of complaint with very great care whenever it has been brought to my notice. In view of the tension which exists at the present moment, I would ask all sections of the House to strengthen the morale of the police so that they may be able to deal with the situation we unfortunately see developing. Particular reference has been made to an unfortunate incident which occurred about two or three days back in one of the refugee camps. It is not at all necessary for any member of the House to point out to me that an enquiry should be made. As soon as it was brought to my notice an enquiry was ordered. I have already received some preliminary reports, and a further enquiry will be made by a very high-level officer and adequate steps will be taken. I can assure the House that Government will not allow such occurrences to recur. I ask that the House do pass the police budget.

The motion of Mr. Satis Chandra Chakravarti that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

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The motion of Mr. A. F. Stark that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs.4,57,59,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs.4,57,59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 1.5 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 17th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 17th March, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 201 Members.

Point of Privilege regarding disallowance of questions.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, একটি অধিকারগত প্রশ্নে আমি বলতে চাই যে আমার দুইটা প্রশ্ন অগ্রাহ্য করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু তার কোন কাবণ আমাকে জানান হয় নাই। আমরা যে প্রশ্ন করি সে প্রশ্ন কেন অগ্রাহ্য করা হোল তা পূর্বে আমাদের জানিয়ে না দিলে আমরা ভবিষ্যতে কিভাবে চলব তা বুঝতে পারি না। সেইজন্য আমার অনুরোধ যে যদি আমাদের কোন প্রশ্ন অগ্রাহ্য করা হয় তাহলে সেটা যেন আমাদের জানিয়ে দেওয়া হয়। আগে জানতে পারলে ভবিষ্যতে প্রশ্ন তৈরী করার অনেক সুবিধা হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: Members are probably referred to certain rules. If they are not satisfied, they are welcome to come to my Chamber and get the necessary information.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Allowance of ex-security prisoner Dinesh Chandra Roy.

***160. Miss BINA DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

- (i) that Sg. Dinesh Chandra Roy of village Hatgacha, post-office Maldanga, police-station Manteswar, district Burdwan, who has been a security prisoner since 1942, was discharged from Detention Camp (Dum Dum) on 25th July, 1945, and was kept interned in his own village up till 20th September, 1945;
 - (ii) that during his detention (in camp) he was given a monthly allowance of Rs.60 a month;
 - (iii) that he has no earning member in his family;
 - (iv) that in spite of repeated petitions sent by him no allowance was given to him during the two months of his internment; and
 - (v) that in all other similar cases allowances were given?
- (b) If the answer to (a) (i) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not giving him any allowance during his internment?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a)(i) Yes.

(ii) An allowance of Rs.50 was originally sanctioned and this was subsequently increased to Rs.60.

(iii) Local officers of Government have reported to this effect.

(iv), (v) and (b) Only one petition was received. It is not a fact that allowances have been given in every case. A personal allowance of Rs.30 per month has recently been granted for the period of village restriction.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Rs.30 was given to him for the period of village restriction and not Rs.60 as was given when he was in detention?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because Government thought that he was out of jail. Therefore they gave him Rs.30.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any enquiry was held as to whether he was earning in addition to what was given to him when this allowance of Rs.30 was given to him?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Rs.30 was given to him because he was not earning anything.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: From the question we understand that the man was sent on detention in that village in July, 1945. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the allowance was paid so late as recently?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the exact date on which the allowance was granted?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given that he was not earning while he was under restriction order why he was not given full Rs.60? Government, I suppose, granted him Rs.60 during his detention after due enquiry that he requires Rs.60 for the maintenance of his family.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: If he wanted to earn he could have done that within the village. It was open to him.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government cared to enquire as to how this man could manage to make two ends meet during the time of his detention in the village?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government thought that Rs.30 is sufficient for him and therefore they have sanctioned this sum.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the general rule for payment of allowances for persons interned and persons detained?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: The Hon'ble Minister has said that Government thought Rs.30 that was sanctioned was enough for him to keep on, but did the Government care to enquire how did that man make the two ends meet before that money was given to him?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Yes, Sir. Government enquired and their information is that he has got some lands and some ponds and some other things.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many dependants Sj. Dinesh Chandra Roy has got to maintain?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি--village restrictionএ ৩০ টাকা করে যে প্রকার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে এবং Home restrictionএ ৬০ টাকা করে যে প্রকার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। কিংবা village restriction এবং Home restriction দুটোই অলাপ্য ভিনিয়। Village restrictionsএ ৩০ টাকা পিছে Home restrictionএ ৬০ টাকা যে প্রকার হয় কি করে?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, may I clear this point? Government thought that Rs.30 is sufficient for him and so they gave him Rs.30.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, আমার প্রশ্ন সেটা নয়। Home restriction এবং village restriction দু'টি ভিন্ন ভিন্ন। কেহ যদি নিজের বাড়ী এবং গ্রাম ছেড়ে অন্য গ্রামে গিয়ে থাকে তাকে বলা হয় village domiciled আর যদি কেহ বাড়ীতে interned থাকে তাকে বলা হয় Home domiciled. তাহলে village restrictionএর বেলায় ৩০ টাকা করে দিলে Home restrictionএর বেলায়ও সেই ৩০ টাকা দেওয়া হয় কি করে?

Mr. SPEAKER: Your supplementary question does not concern the main question at all.

Miss BINA DAS: জেলখানায় থাকে ৬০ টাকা করে দেওয়া হোত interned অবস্থায় তাকে ৩০ টাকা করে দেওয়া হবে এটা আবারের কাছে পরিকাৰ হচ্ছে না, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আন একবার এটা পরিকাৰ করে বলবেন কি?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have already said that Government thought that he could have earned within the village.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was the policy of Government to give money to a person after he has served out his period of internment?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: In some cases Government did give money to those who are interned.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how is it possible for an internee to earn during his term of village restriction?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because he is allowed to roam about within the boundary of the village except that he cannot go outside the boundary of the village.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all the dues up-to-date at Rs. 30 has been paid to him?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Mr. HASAN ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis this grant was paid to him?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government thought that this amount was sufficient for him. Therefore there is no basis.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Did the Government enquire whether there was any scope for him to earn or not?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Government enquired into it and thought that Rs.30 was sufficient.

Scale of pay of Upper Division assistants of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department.

*161. **Mr. ASHUTOSH MALLICK:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Constitution and Elections) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the scale of pay of the Upper Division assistants in the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department is lower than that of those in the Secretariat Departments of this Government?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to grant the same scale of pay to the Upper Division assistants of this Department as is admissible to the Upper Division assistants in the Secretariat Departments under the new scheme of Revision of pay now under consideration of Government?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy):
(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the grades of pay of Upper Division Assistants of the Assembly Department as well as of the Secretariat?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Respective scales of pay are as follows:
Assembly Department—Rs.115 to Rs.300 and Secretariat—Rs.115 to Rs.350.

Mr. ASHUTOSH MALLICK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long Government will keep the matter postponed on the plea that the matter is under consideration?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No decision has been arrived at as yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. The question is how long Government will take to come to a decision.
(No answer.)

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a definite provision in the Assembly Department Rules, published in the "Calcutta Gazette" dated 1st April 1947, that in respect of all matters affecting the clerical and ordinary staff, the Assembly Department Rules and Orders, applicable to corresponding ranks in Secretariat, shall apply?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say so. As far as I know the Assembly Department Rules apply.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is a provision in the rules that there shall be no distinction between clerks in the Assembly Department and the clerks in corresponding position in Secretariat?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry, I cannot say.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Assistants in the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department are equally efficient, if not more efficient, than those in Secretariat?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why then there is a difference between the scales of pay of the Upper Division Assistants of this Department and those of the Secretariat?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Because Government is of opinion that there are differences in the matter of their duties.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the information given by Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that there is rule 17 which definitely provides for the applicability of rules relating to scales of pay in Secretariat to all matters regarding the clerks here in this Assembly Department, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to look into the rules and consider the desirability of revising the scales of pay according to the provision of Rule 17?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The rule will be considered when the matter comes up for a decision.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will also consider the desirability of compensating the staff of the Assembly Department the loss that they are now suffering as a result of this distinction?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am unable to say anything further than that the matter is receiving the attention of Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the file regarding the consideration of scales of pay for the Upper Division Assistants of this Department first started?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: In view of the answer he has just given to a question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the opinion of Government, the duties assigned to the Assistants of the Assembly Department are less important than the duties assigned to those in Secretariat?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In accordance with the provision of the rules we have calculated that up to the time of retirement each Upper Division Assistant of the Assembly Department will suffer a pecuniary loss in pay to the extent of nearly nine thousand rupees, and in view of this, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer again to the rule and consider whether they can be compensated for this loss which is being suffered by them for the default of Government in maintaining the disparity in the scale of pay of Upper Division Assistants of this Department in contravention of the definite provision in the rules governing the affairs of the Assembly Department?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have already stated that the relevant rules in this connection will be considered by Government before they come to a final decision.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the question of granting over-time allowance to the staff of the Assembly Department was first discussed in this house?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another question.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি Secretariat এর কর্মচারীরা এটা পর্যন্ত কাজ করেন, কিন্তু Assemblyর কর্মচারীদের অনেকদিন যাত্রি এটা পর্যন্ত কাজ করতে হয়, সেজন্য তাদের কোন extra allowance দেবার ব্যবস্থা আছে কি?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It is left at the discretion of Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an approximate time by which this matter which is under consideration of Government will be finalised and things will take a definite shape?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry, I am unable to give any definite time-limit, but I can say that it will be considered along with the reports of the Pay Commission.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any retrospective effect will be given?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say anything at this stage.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the rule that has been framed by the Government, if it is found that the information supplied is

correct, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for even then not revising the scale of pay of Upper Division Assistants and bring it up to parity with that received by Upper Division clerks of the Secretariat?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have already stated that the matter is under examination and consideration of Government. I am not in a position to state definitely what Government is going to do.

Maintenance of communal parity in different departments of Government.

***162. Dr. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Establishment) Department be pleased to state whether communal parity in different departments of the Government is maintained?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister feel the necessity of creating immediately a separate department, namely, "Communal Ratio Department" to enforce the Communal Ratio Rules and keep the figures of all the departments up-to-date for the information of the House?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy):

(a) According to the information available to Government Communal Ratio Rules are followed as far as possible in making appointments.

(b) No separate department is being created but a proposal is being considered by Government to strengthen the existing staff so as to enforce more strictly the Communal Ratio Rules and to keep an up-to-date statement to this effect.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a Commission to enquire into and see that the communal ratio rule is maintained strictly?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No, Sir. Government does not consider the appointment of a Commission, but is considering the question of enforcing communal ratio rules strictly and steps are being taken to strictly follow it.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: With reference to answer (b), viz., "No separate department is being created but a proposal is being considered by Government to strengthen the existing staff", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he means to say that there is a staff, a separate Department, to enforce the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I may state for the information of the honourable members that when the question of communal ratio was first decided a Communal Ratio Officer was appointed to go into this question, but in view of the fact that it was not possible for one officer to go into this question minutely, instructions were issued to different Departments to follow communal ratio rules, but it was found that it was not being given effect to. The present position is that Government is considering the question of having a Communal Ratio Officer appointed for every Division to give effect to the communal ratio rules. There will be an officer at the centre. There is also going to be an officer in the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that Mr. Bapat sometime back issued a statement saying that posts reserved for Muslims were given to non-Muslims on the plea that sufficient suitable Muslim candidates were not available, in spite of the fact that applications from Muslim candidates were there?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That might have been the case in Section 93 administration. When this Ministry came into office they issued a definite instruction that communal ratio rules should be observed strictly.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if communal ratio rule will be observed in matters of promotions as well?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the discrepancy in the observance of the Communal Ratio Rules is more pronounced in the case of the Scheduled Castes than in the case of the Muslims?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the Communal Ratio Rules and also whether the same ratio applies to every department?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as the Communal Ratio Rules are concerned, they are quite clear; and as far as the applicability of the rules to every department is concerned, the answer is, Yes.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With regard to the appointments which have been made in excess of the quota of a particular community allowable under the Communal Ratio Rules, rule 13 of which provides that such appointments should stand cancelled, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether that rule 13 is being observed and appointments made in excess of the quota of a particular community have been cancelled and, if not, whether Government intend to cancel them in future?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The whole matter covered by rule 13 of the Communal Ratio Rules is under examination.

Mr. MAJIBAR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is prepared to hold an enquiry that in spite of the fact that the Communal Ratio Rules are there, some of the superior officers intentionally did not observe the rules?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Government is not prepared to hold any enquiry. But if any specific case is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter will be looked into.

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report of the Special Officer that the Communal Ratio Rules were not observed in some departments, was received by Government.

Mr. S. A. SALIM: It was during the section 93 administration.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these Communal Ratio Rules were adopted by the Government?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far back as 1940.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the policy of the Government to enforce the Communal Ratio Rules even where it impinges upon the efficiency and honesty of the department concerned?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I do not think so.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: In view of the fact that much injustice is being done in respect of promotions and in view of the fact that the

whole matter of Communal Ratio Rules is under the Government itself, does the Government consider it desirable to give effect to Communal Ratio Rules in cases of promotion also?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as promotion is concerned, the Communal Ratio Rules will not be given effect to.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government considers it desirable to suspend the Communal Ratio Rules where efficiency and honesty demand otherwise and the Public Service Commission recommends to the contrary; or, in that case would the Government consider it desirable to suspend the Public Service Commission supposing they do not recommend in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, will you please split up your question?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, my question is, will the Government consider the desirability of following the recommendations of the Public Service Commission in case the Public Service Commission does not recommend according to the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Communal Ratio Rules will be observed, so far as appointment is concerned, without impairing efficiency.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My point was not that. Supposing the Public Service Commission make recommendation contrary to Communal Ratio Rules—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the ratio that is being followed hitherto is changeable?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of publishing monthly returns of percentage of officers in different departments?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: It is a very important suggestion, and Government will consider it.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain if the Special Officer to be appointed in the Civil Supplies Department will have any other duties besides enforcing the Communal Ratio Rules?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: He will be given additional duties as Communal Ratio Officer.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain if all appointments in the Civil Supplies Department will have to be approved by this Communal Ratio Officer?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The officer will see whether in every vacancy the communal ratio rules are being observed.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases rule 13 can be applied?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. ABQUS SABUR KHAN: In the light of the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister that he is not prepared to enquire into the irregularities

at have been the violation of the Communal Ratio Rules, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he does not think that an enquiry is necessary: Is it because it will expose some of the officers?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have explained that many of the appointments were made during Section 93 administration. But since this Ministry took office, we have issued instructions that the Communal Ratio Rules will be observed in every department.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules will be observed in the Communal Ratio Rules Department? (Laughter.)

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes! (Laughter.)

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Has the Parliamentary Secretary got any authority to declare that Government does not desire to apply the Communal Ratio Rules in the case of promotions?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as my information goes, the rule really does not apply in cases of promotion.

Damodar project.

*163. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state how much headway the Damodar project has made up till now?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the result of the joint conference held recently at New Delhi, which the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bengal also attended?

(c) Has the Bengal Government agreed to contribute its quota of money towards the execution of the project?

(d) If not, why not?

(e) If the Government have agreed to pay the quota, what is the amount and what is the total amount likely to be spent in carrying out the project?

(f) Is it a fact that the Damodar project when executed will not only prevent flood from which Western Bengal is frequently suffering but will also supply electric energy and dry weather flow for irrigation in Bengal?

(g) If the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter for successful execution of the Damodar project?

MINISTER in charge of the IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukherjee): (a) The preparation of the scheme is in progress.

(b) to (c) Tentative proposals were formulated in the conference. The matter will come up for further discussion in the next Damodar Conference proposed to be held about April next.

(f) Yes.

(g) As three Governments are interested in the scheme, there is a proposal for setting up a Corporation, called the Damodar Valley Corporation, for the successful execution of the project.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that for a long time prior to the last Conference at Delhi the Government of Bengal was non-co-operating with the Central Government in the matter of execution of the Damodar project?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEE: Certainly not. The Bengal Government co-operated fully.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea of the tentative proposals that were formulated in the last Conference held in Delhi?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is a rather long matter, but briefly I may state for the information of the honourable member that the Damodar project includes besides the navigation project the schemes for flood control, irrigation and power generation.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the tentative proposal regarding question (c), namely, the proposed quota of money that the Bengal Government will have to pay towards the execution of the project?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: That has not yet been finally decided.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that in the last Conference it has been agreed that in the case of works to be undertaken for the development of power all the three Governments of India, Bihar and Bengal will take equal share in the development project?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The answer is in the affirmative.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was a fact that as regards expenditure on irrigation it was settled that the proportion to be paid by the Governments of Bengal and Bihar would be in proportion to the benefits to be derived?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: That is natural.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With regard to the capital expenditure on flood control, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it was settled that Bengal and Bihar will share equally?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Regarding flood control we expect to share equally with the Centre.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Minister attended the last Conference along with the Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Both the Minister in charge of Irrigation and the Chief Minister attended.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Minister attended the last conference which the Premier of this province also attended?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Yes, Sir, both myself—Minister in charge of Irrigation—and the Chief Minister attended it.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please place a statement containing the decisions of that conference before this House so that we may definitely know how far progress has been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Certainly, we will come before this House with a full detailed statement as soon as a final decision is taken.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in a nutshell the constitution of the Damodar Valley Corporation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I regret it will not be proper for me to make a statement at this stage because it has not yet been finally settled. The thing is that the Corporation will be formed consisting of three members who will be solely in charge of this work.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: In answer to an unstarred question of the 3rd February, 1947, the Hon'ble Minister said that the scheme would take three years for completion. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he sticks to that view even now?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Since then nothing has yet been done which may lead to changing my opinion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the declaration by the British Government on the 20th February that power will be transferred by England to India by June, 1948, has made any change as to the execution of the plan?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I submit that does not arise. Here it is a matter purely concerning Indians and in India.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: With reference to answer (a) where the Hon'ble Minister has already stated that the preparation of the scheme is in progress, may I know how much progress of the Damodar scheme has been achieved up till now?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: With my humble knowledge I do not know of any scale by which progress can be measured. The thing is that the scheme is under preparation and will be finally settled at the next conference.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: On a point of privilege, Sir. The question about the Damodar Valley scheme is one which vitally concerns Bengal and I have been making repeated questions about this only with a view to know how far this scheme has proceeded, but I am sorry to say that the Hon'ble Minister is not making a complete statement before the House. So, he is depriving the House of the legitimate knowledge which we should get from him.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I am all the more anxious to take the House into my fullest confidence and if the honourable member is so much interested, I shall be grateful if he comes to me and I shall place before him all the papers which are now available.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many districts of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa will be benefited by the schemes of prevention of flood, supply of electricity and dry weather flow for irrigation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: All the districts of West Bengal will be benefited, I want notice to state which districts of Bihar will be benefited and no district of Orissa will be benefited.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the different Governments will be represented in the Damodar Corporation—in what proportion they will be represented?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It will be an independent body—independent of the Bengal, Bihar and Orissa Governments.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: With reference to answer (a) that the preparation of the scheme is in progress, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any estimate has been made of the scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is natural that unless the scheme finally materialises, it is impossible to draw up any correct estimate.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Whether any survey has been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: My previous question—how much progress has been achieved—has not been fully answered. I want to know particularly at what stage of the progress Government has reached at the present moment.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: In a nutshell, everything will be finally settled at the next conference.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister not in a position now to let us know as to the actual stage of the progress of the Damodar Valley scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: All the necessary surveys and other things have been completed and it now only remains to finally decide and approve the scheme at the next conference.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Are we to understand that even at this stage there has been no tentative proposal about the apportionment of cost between these three Governments?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It will be neither fair nor proper to make a statement about the apportionment of cost unless it has been finally agreed upon and decided.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much the Bengal Government will have to pay towards this Damodar scheme?

Mr. SPEAKER: It has already been answered.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: If no scheme has been prepared, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how, in his answer to an unstarred question of the 3rd February, 1947, he said that the rough estimate of the scheme is about Rs.55 crores?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: I never said that no scheme has been prepared. I said that a tentative scheme has been prepared and the estimate is on that tentative scheme.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider it desirable to place the whole scheme before the House before he agrees on behalf of Bengal to any particular sum of money?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: It is quite natural that I shall come up to the House not only with the full scheme but with detailed facts and figures and maps before it is finally agreed upon by the Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Central Bengal, Eastern Bengal and Northern Bengal will be in any way benefited by the scheme?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has promised to come up before the House with the entire scheme before any final decision is arrived at. I think, all these questions can be put off now.

Payment of compensatory allowance to Assembly Department staff.

*164. **Mr. ASHUTOSH MALLICK:** (a) With reference to the remarks made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on the floor of the House on the 25th September, 1946, in reply to a cut motion regarding the granting of compensatory allowance to the staff of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department, will the Deputy Speaker be pleased to state whether steps have been taken to grant allowance to the staff of that department for working beyond office hours during sessions of the Assembly?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Deputy Speaker be pleased to state what were the rates proposed and what rates have actually been allowed by the Government?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Deputy Speaker be pleased to state the stage at which the matter stands at present and also the reasons for delay in coming to a final decision in the matter?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Tafazzal Ali): (a) to (c) The question of payment of some allowance to the staff of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department has engaged the attention of the Hon'ble Speaker for a long time and as this involves a financial responsibility as well as a policy of Government no final orders could be passed by him. He has already addressed the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and Hon'ble the Finance Minister for a discussion on those points in a conference on the matter.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker please tell us the date when the communication was sent to the Chief Minister and if any suggestion has been made in that communication and if any answer has been received to that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The communication from the Hon'ble Speaker was very prompt because the discussion took place on the 25th September, 1946, and it was during September, 1946, that the Hon'ble Speaker wrote to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Minister of Finance, but no reply has yet been received.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker be pleased to state when this question of granting overtime allowance to the staff of the Assembly Department was first discussed in this House?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It involves giving a little bit of history about the difficulties of the employees of the Assembly. Prior to 1932 they were given some sort of allowance because the employees of the Legislative Department used to do the work of the Legislative Council. From 1932 the overtime allowance has been stopped. The question was first raised by Mr. Azizul Haque in 1938.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker be pleased to state if any reminder was sent to the Government since the first communication was sent to them?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Speaker did not think it necessary to send any reminder because the Hon'ble Speaker thinks that the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister are sufficiently responsible persons.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the honourable Deputy Speaker aware that in the previous regime when it was known as the Bengal Legislative Council, an overtime allowance used to be paid to the staff of that Department.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. During that regime in question the upper division assistants used to get Rs.5 per diem for overtime work; the lower division assistants used to get Rs.4 per diem; and typists used to get Rs.3 per diem.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the honourable Deputy Speaker be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the assistants of the old Council Department were given a special pay to be absorbed with the increment of an individual's salary in order to prevent hardship from which the assistants used to suffer owing to non-granting of overtime allowance on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it was granted in 1934.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Is it not a fact that members of the staff are more hard pressed financially at present than what they were in 1935?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly. I can assure the members of the House that the Hon'ble Speaker appreciates very much the interest evinced by the members of the House in the welfare of our staff.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I rise on a point of privilege, Sir. The answers that have been given here seem to indicate that the staff of the Legislative Assembly Department is not really under the control of the Hon'ble Speaker and it appears that financial control ultimately rests with Chief Minister's as well as Finance Departments of the Government. The constitutional position is that if Government so chooses it can put a stop to increments and promotions and everything connected with the Assembly staff, and I think the correct constitutional position is that these matters should be left finally with the discretion of the Speaker and not to be interfered with by Government in any way. I think, Sir, this is a very important constitutional point involving the privileges of this House as we know the position is quite clear so far as the House of Commons is concerned, and that is why I understand there are going to be enactments about the privileges of members of the House as also the exact jurisdiction of this House. In the absence of such a law I think it would be better to depend on convention and to strengthen the convention that Government in any case should make no delay in fulfilling the requirements requisitioned by the Speaker and in putting into practice the recommendations of the Speaker. The recommendation was made by the Speaker as early as 1938 by Mr. Azizul Haque and again by yourself, I think in September. If that is the position, I think it is regrettable that Government have not taken any steps. I think this question should be thrashed out and a final decision made as to with whom the final authority rests regarding everything connected with Assembly staff and the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha has raised an important point. The question has agitated the Assembly Department for a long time. The position of the Assembly Department and its relationship with Government is certainly anomalous, and a series of correspondence has been made with Government for settling the exact position of the Assembly Department in reference to Government. My predecessors as well as myself hold the view that the Assembly Department should be independent of Government, because this House represents the entire people of Bengal and it is this House which votes the grants of all departments, so this department must be independent of Government. But unfortunately under the constitution and the rules made thereunder in 1937 when this Assembly Department did not come into existence fully—when it was a legacy of the old Council, certain rules were framed at that time by the Governor according to which this Department had been made almost subservient to Government. It is an intolerable and undesirable position and the sooner this department becomes independent of Government, the better. At present the Speaker under certain rules is certainly the head of the department, but, so far as financial matters are concerned, he has got to depend on the mercy of Government in the Finance and the Chief Minister's Departments. This is why proposals from this department are treated with step-motherly consideration.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I therefore make a suggestion that in the absence of legislative enactments to this effect Government might create a precedent and themselves be only a registering authority and leave entirely the initiative and discretion in your hands, so far as these things are concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think Government will make a reply or take any notice of these suggestions.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government will certainly take notice of what transpires in this House. It is the duty of Government to take notice of the proceedings of this House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Mr. Speaker wrote to the Chief Minister and Finance Minister in September last but they have not taken any notice of that.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: On the same point of privilege Sir. Having regard to what has just fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble Speaker that this House and the officers of this House are receiving step-motherly treatment from the Finance Department as well as from the Chief Minister's Department of Government, I would on behalf of this House, ask the honourable Deputy Speaker to bring up a Bill very soon before this House is prorogued, so that we might pass it in this session and give full authority to the Speaker in this matter. (Applause.)

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Deputy Speaker be pleased to answer whether menials and other staff of the Assembly—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think any useful purpose will be served by any more supplementary questions. Let us wait and see what Government does in the next conference which has been called by me. The first conference failed, because there was no reply by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. Let us wait and see the result of this conference.

Mr. MAHAMMAD AFZAL: One question, Sir—

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Sir, we want to put the grievances of the Assembly Department—menials and others—through supplementary questions. There may be 1001 grievances and on their behalf we would like that the proceedings of the house for today should be recorded, so that the Finance Minister, when he comes to consider these things, will consider those aspects of the question as well. We want to put questions.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: You can submit a note justifying your case.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, if you allow us to put more supplementary questions to the Hon'ble Finance Minister then we can get some information in this connection. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: He is present and is taking note of the supplementary questions and also the attitude of the honourable members and the sympathy that they are showing with the employees of the Legislative Assembly.

**Statement by Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, Leader of the Opposition, regarding
Recrudescence of Violence in Calcutta.**

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you take up the business of the day, with your permission I wish to mention a matter of great importance concerning this city and also this province. I mean the unhappy recrudescence of violence that took place in the city of Calcutta last night. Crackers were thrown, brickbatting took place and I understand that there were some cases of stabbing. The casualties, so far as I know, have not been fortunately more than 14 of various types. One person, I

believe, has died. (A VOICE: three) Well, the total casualties cannot be called large considering the population of Calcutta, but at the same time it has to be admitted that there is a good deal of panic in the city and there is also a great deal of tension. Last night, Sir, I received a telephonic message from north Calcutta and some other parts of the city. I contacted Lal Bazar. It was at about 12 o'clock midnight. I was told that the Police was taking prompt measures. I tried to contact the Chief Minister but unfortunately he was out of town. I then made contact with Mr. Nasarullah and Mr. Mohammed Ali. I am glad to be able to say that I found them quite alive to the situation and they offered to go out with me if it was necessary. Eventually I was told that the situation was under control. I believe there has not been any more incident up till now. I say that subject to correction. In any case I would ask Government to be more alert and hope that they will take proper steps so that the situation does not grow worse. It is superfluous to mention that any more disturbance in Calcutta is sure to inflame the whole of Bengal. I want to make certain suggestions. I have already made suggestions on similar lines privately to the Hon'ble Ministers. The first suggestion is, whether the city is quiet or not, patrolling should continue. Secondly, Police pickets should be posted at all dangerous points. I am prepared to mention here one or two places—it is not possible to give an exhaustive list—for instance, Chitpore-Harrison Road crossing, Sealdah Station, Raja Bazar Area, Maulali area, Wellesley Street, Corporation Street. (A VOICE: Manicktolla) I am sure honourable members also can make their suggestions.

There is one other matter which is of great importance. I would like to suggest that Government should immediately inform the Telephone company that telephones should not go out of order when the public wants it most. It has been our sad experience that during the last riots it was impossible to contact Lal Bazar or even the Telephone exchange. I hope Government will take some satisfactory step in the matter.

I want to put three questions to the Hon'ble Finance Minister who, I think, is deputising for the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Firstly, what is the actual position just now? Secondly, what are the steps Government has already taken? Thirdly, what further steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, unfortunately some deplorable incidents occurred late last night. The trouble originated from the explosion of a cracker which resulted in injury to a person. The immediate result was that there was communal tension in certain localities of this metropolis. As soon as this information reached the Police they took strong and stringent measures to patrol the area and sent large contingents of Police force for picketing at strategic points and patrolling the streets of Calcutta.

Sir, I was in touch with the Leader of the Opposition up till 2-30 this morning. I must acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation that he rendered to us and his assistance with valuable suggestions. All the precautionary measures were taken with his approval and in consultation with him. We felt that instead of mobilising the Police force in the areas where trouble took place it was necessary to patrol all the important streets and danger zones of Calcutta in order not only to prevent spreading of the trouble but in order also to infuse a sense of security among the citizens of Calcutta and that was done last night. I am glad to be able to state that by 12-30 a.m. this morning the situation was absolutely under control and so far no incident has been reported to Government. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition has said, the number of casualties is very small. There was only one case of death but it is not yet known whether the death of a non-Bengali was due to either communal reasons or it was the case of an ordinary murder. One non-Bengali was found in a pool of blood lying somewhere in Calcutta. As the honourable members are aware, such

murders are not very rare in a large city like Calcutta. Some commotion took place. Government is not sure whether this is a case of communal murder. In any case there were a very few cases which were admitted into the hospital. Most of them were treated and discharged. They were mostly stab injuries and prognosis of the patients admitted is not bad. So far as the questions raised by the Leader of the Opposition are concerned we have agreed—of course I had the privilege of meeting the Leader of the Opposition this morning—to accept the suggestions he gave. We have issued instructions to see that patrolling continues in the streets of Calcutta and pickets are posted at all strategic areas, with regard particularly to places where there is a confluence of the population belonging to the two major communities and this is being done and will be continued to be done unless Government is satisfied that there is no danger to public safety and tranquillity.

As far as the question of further steps are concerned I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition and the members of this House that Government will brook no nonsense. They are determined to pursue relentlessly all mischief-mongers and trouble makers. Government will do their utmost to bring all these mischief-mongers to book. I assure the House again that Government will do all in its power to see that there is no recurrence of such unfortunate happenings as took place last night as also during the fateful August disturbances. Government will strain every nerve and muscle and spend every ounce of their energy to prevent not only trouble appearing in Calcutta but in any other part of this Province. This assurance I can give to the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope that in the spirit in which he has co-operated with us, if he will continue to co-operate with us, I see no reason why Government will not be successful in its objective, namely, to maintain tranquillity and law and order in the province with the full co-operation of all sections of this House.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

30—Ports and Pilotage.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.5,41,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage".

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.5,41,000 for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the inconvenience of the passengers travelling in steamers in the following routes:—

- (a) Goalundo to Chandpur,
- (b) Goalundo to Narayanganj.
- (c) Goalundo to Madaripur,
- (d) Khulna to Barisal,
- (e) Dacca to Barisal,

and to draw the attention of the Government to the inconvenience caused by the stoppage of steamer service between Sirajganj and Jagannathganj.

মিঃ শীকার, স্যার, বর্তমান বিংশ শতাব্দীর এই উন্নতির যুগে steamer পথে পূর্ব বঙ্গে যাত্রা যাত্রায় করেন তাঁদের যে কি স্বভোগ ভোগে হয় তা ভুক্তভোগীরাই জানেন—বিশেষ করে তৃতীয় এবং ইন্টার ক্লাস passengerদের। তাঁদের অসুবিধার অস্ত নেই। এই অসুবিধার জন্য সর্বভোভাবে দায়ী গভর্নমেন্টের উদাসীনতা। গভর্নমেন্ট অবনোযোগী হওয়ার জন্য এবং শ্রেষ্ঠতম বণিকদের দ্বারা যা দিতে বাচি না হওয়ার জন্য steamer যাত্রীদের দীর্ঘকাল এই অসুবিধা ভোগ করতে হচ্ছে। এই Assemblyতে বড়বাইটীয়ার পক্ষে বাতালান্তে অসুবিধা

সঙ্গে প্রস্তুত ও আলোচনা হয়েছে প্রতিবারই আমরা নবী মহাপুত্রের কাছ থেকে তখনও পেরেছি যে টীমারে যাতায়াতের বিশেষ কোন অসুবিধা নেই; তাঁরা কোথা থেকে এই রকম মিথ্যা সংবাদ পান জানি না। এই পরিঘটনের উত্তর পক্ষের বহু লোক টীমার পথে যাতায়াত করেন; তাঁদের সকলেরই এ বিষয়ে প্রত্যক্ষ অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। সকলের এই প্রত্যক্ষ অভিজ্ঞতা অস্বীকার করে নবী মহাপুত্র যদি গায়ের জোরে জাহির করতে চান যে বাংলায় টীমার পথে যাতায়াতের কোন অসুবিধা নেই এবং ভৃতীয় ও ইন্টার ক্লাশের যাত্রীদের কোন দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করতে হয় না, তবে বুঝতে হবে যে এই Assemblyতে কোন কথা আলোচনা করে লাভ নেই। এই Assemblyতে আলোচনার পর তাঁর যদি কোন প্রতিকার না হয় এবং যা কিছু আলোচনা করা যায় তা চাপা দেবার কিংবা যেমামুষ অস্বীকার করবার এই রকম অন্যায্য ভেদ মস্ত্রীরা করেন তাহলে এই Assemblyতে আলোচনার কী স্বার্থকতা আছে? এই Assembly তাহলে সম্পূর্ণ একটা শূন্যসন মাত্র। মাননীয় নবী মহাপুত্র নিশ্চয়ই জানেন যে বাংলায় I. G. N. এবং R. S. N. কোম্পানীর যে সমস্ত টীমার আছে সেগুলির শ্রায় সবকয়টী রাষ্ট্রাতার আমলেই উঠে। যাত্রীদের বসবার বেক কিংবা আধুনিক কোন সুব্যবস্থা টীমারে নেই। কোন টীমারে যথেষ্ট পানীয় জল ও আলোর কোন সুব্যবস্থা নেই। পায়শালা সংক্রান্ত যে অসুবিধা প্যাসেঞ্জারদের ভোগ করতে হয় তা ভুক্তভোগী মাত্রই জানেন। কিন্তু যে কয়বার আমরা টীমার-যাত্রীদের অসুবিধার কথা এই পরিঘটে আলোচনা করেছি প্রতিবারই আমরা মানুষী উত্তর শুনেছি, “টীমারে কোন অসুবিধা হয় না। Over crowding হয় না।” অথচ যদি সাক্ষ্য চাওয়া যায় এবং “হলক” করে বলতে পারা যায় তাহলে দেখা যাবে যে, যে সমস্ত যেকার নবী মহাপুত্রকে সমর্থন করেন তাঁরাও বলবেন সত্যসত্যি টীমারে over crowding হয়। (Voice : নিশ্চয়ই, নিশ্চয়ই।) টীমারে overcrowding বহু কয়বার জন্য সরকারের কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই বা overcrowding হয় কিনা তা অনুসন্ধান করবার জন্য সরকারের কোন Inspector নাই। Overcrowding হয় না এ সংবাদ সরকার সংগ্রহ করেন টীমার কোম্পানীর কাছ থেকে। আর সরকার পক্ষের অনেক যেকার যারা “যো হলকুমের চল”—“জল উঠু তো উঠু, নীচু তো নীচু” তাঁরাই এই কথায় সাহায্য দেন। লজ্জার কথা!

বাংলাদেশে টীমার পথে যাত্রীদের মধ্যে হিন্দু ও আছেন, মুসলমান ও আছেন। তাঁদের মধ্যে রাজনৈতিক ব্যাপারে মতান্তর থাকতে পারে, কিন্তু মানুষের মৌলিক সুবিধা অসুবিধার সময় সরকারকে এই রকম মিথ্যা সমর্থনের যে অপচেষ্টা তাব অর্থ মোটেই বৃথাতে পাবি না।

প্রতিটি টীমারের কী কী পরিবহনের প্রয়োজন এবং overcrowding হয় কিনা তা লক্ষ্য করবার জন্য সরকারের Inspector নিয়োগ করা দরকার। I. G. N. এবং R. S. N. কোম্পানীর টীমারগুলি সবই রাষ্ট্রাতার আমলের পুরানো এবং তাতে যাত্রীদের আধুনিক কোন সুবিধার ব্যবস্থা নেই। আমি দাবী করি—মুতন কোন কোম্পানী জনসাধারণের এই সব অভাব পূরণ করে উন্নত ব্যবস্থায় টীমার চালাতে বাধ্য হলে সেইরূপ কোম্পানীকে সহর অনুমতি দেওয়া হোক, কিংবা বাংলায় টীমার চালান সরকার সম্পূর্ণ নিজেদের হাতে নিল। আমি আশা করি আমাদের Assemblyব নেতৃবর্গেরা আমার এই cut motion সমর্থন করবেন এবং এই cut motionএর উত্তর দেবার সময় নবী মহাপুত্র স্বশ্রুতি ভাষায় যথাযোগ্য উত্তর দেবেন।

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.5,41,000 for expenditure under the head “30—Ports and Pilotage” be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the steamer company to maintain the ferry service between Jagannathganj Ghat and Sirajganj Ghat and about indifference of Government to make any alternative arrangement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজ শীর্ষস্থান যাবৎ জগন্নাথগঞ্জ ঘাট থেকে সিরাজগঞ্জ ঘাট পর্যন্ত নবী পথে যাতায়াতের টীমার চালান বন্ধ। এই অবস্থার সূচনা গত বছর হতে দেখা গিয়েছিল। সেই সময় হতে টীমার কোম্পানী কিংবা গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি এ বিষয়ে যথাযথ লক্ষ্য অবলম্বন করতেন তাহলে এই অচল অবস্থার সম্ভাবনা হত না। এখনও যাতায়াত যে একেবারে বন্ধ তাও নয়। কিন্তু টীমার কোম্পানী আর্থিক ক্ষতির সম্ভাবনা আশঙ্ক্য করে একদম চালান বন্ধ করে বসে আছে। এর ফলে সুখী বেল চলাচল বন্ধ হয়ে গেছে। আর সেই সময়ে যাত্রীদের অপরিণীত অসুবিধা ভোগ করতে হচ্ছে। সুখী বেল যে সমস্ত যাত্রীরা যাতায়াত করেন, তাঁদের জন্য ভিন্ন কোন ব্যবস্থা অধ্যাবধি করা হয় নাই। কাজেই তাঁদের নানা অসুবিধা, দুর্ভোগ ও নানাবিধ পথকষ্ট বরণ করে চলতে হচ্ছে। এখন জিজ্ঞাস্য—এই অবস্থার জন্য দায়ী কে? টীমার কোম্পানীর নিষ্কর্তৃত্ব, না গভর্ণমেন্টের উদাসীনতা, না নিশ্চেষ্টতা? আমি পূর্বেই বলেছি এই অবস্থার সম্ভাবনা গভর্ণমেন্ট হতে দেখা গিয়েছিল; তবুও যথাযথ কোন ব্যবস্থা কেন অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই?

সেই কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে গভর্ণমেন্ট নিশ্চয়ই বাধ্য। তারপর সার্ভিস বন্ধ করবার পূর্বে ঠীমার কোম্পানী কেন কোন বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেয়নি? হঠাৎ একই সঙ্গে ঠীমার সার্ভিস ও রেলওয়ে সার্ভিস বন্ধ করবার কারণ কি? ইহা জনসাধারণের স্বাধীনতার প্রতি কর্তৃকর্তাগণের ঊসানীয়া ভিনু আর কি হতে পারে? তারপুত্র মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানি না এ সম্বন্ধে কোন পৌছ বখর রাখেন কিনা বা তিনি তার প্রতিকারের কোন চেষ্টা করছেন কিনা। গত বৎসর যখন এই অবস্থার সূচনা দেখা দিয়েছিল বা তারপর বর্তমান অচলাবস্থার পরিণতি সম্পর্কে ঠীমার কোম্পানী গভর্ণমেন্টকে কিছু জানিয়েছিলেন কিনা এবং উহা জানান হয়ে থাকলে প্রতিকারের জন্য Government উদ্যোগী হয়েছিলেন কিনা, উহাও আমাদের জানা আবশ্যিক। সরকার পক্ষ হয়ত—হয়ত কেন, নিশ্চয়ই কৈফিয়ৎ স্বরূপে কিছু বলবেন। কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে সহস্র সহস্র যাত্রীদের অসুবিধা দূরীকরণার্থ তাঁরা একটুও কিছু করেছেন কিনা? আমরা দেখছি ঠীমার কোম্পানীর নিশ্চেষ্টতা, রেলওয়ের অসমর্থতা এবং সর্বোপরি বাংলা সরকারের নিষ্ক্রিয় মনোভাব। বাংলাদেশের জনসাধারণ সত্যি সত্যি এমন একটা বিপর্যয়ের মাঝে বাস করছে যে তাদের কোন অভাব-অভিযোগের প্রতিকার হবার উপায় নেই। নদী পথে ঠীমার চলাচল অব্যাহত রাখা যে তাঁদের কর্তব্য, সরকার তাঁদের সেই কর্তব্য যথাযথ পালন করতে পারেননি। ইহা আজ পরিষ্কার বোঝা যাচ্ছে সেই সমস্ত লায়সেন্স ব্যক্তিগণ যাদের উপর এই ভার ন্যস্ত সেই সরকারী কর্তৃত্বাধীন আজ করদাতাগণের অর্থে বেশ আবার ভোগ করছে। আর কর-দাতাগণ নিজেরা শুধু দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করছে। আয়লাভাত্মিক যুগের মনোভাব আজও সর্বত্র বিরাজমান। মন্ত্রিবর্গও সেই যুগের মত গদিতো নিষ্ক্রিয় হয়ে বসে আছে। কেবলমাত্র রিপোর্ট নোটের উপর নির্ভর করেই তাঁরা তাঁদের কর্তব্য সম্পাদন করছেন। জনসাধারণের অভাব-অভিযোগ সম্পর্কে স্বতঃপ্রবৃত্ত হয়ে তাদের করণীয় কর্তব্য-বোধ একটুও নাই। তাঁরা কাজে কর্দে যে মনোভাব দেখান তাতে তাঁদের ক্ষমতাহীনতার পরিচয়ই শুধু পাওয়া যায়। ঠীমার কোম্পানীর কারসাজীতে বর্তমানে এই অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। ঠীমার কোম্পানী বিশেষ উদ্দেশ্য-প্রণোদিত হয়ে যে এই অচল অবস্থার সৃষ্টি করেছে ও করছে, একদম সিন্ধু জনসাধারণের মনে জাগরুক হয়েছে। ঠীমার কোম্পানী যাত্রীদের যাতায়াতে কোন বন্ধন স্বাধীনতা দেন না। যত যাত্রী বহন করবার মন্ত্রুণী ঠীমার কোম্পানী নিয়ে থাকে, তার চেয়ে অনেক বেশী যাত্রী তাঁরা বহন করছে। অনেক ঠীমার সার্ভে সার্টিফিকেট রাখা হয় না। বাহাদুরাবাদ ও ডিহ্রামুখ ঘাটের মধ্যে যে ফেরী সার্ভিস আছে, সেই ঠীমার কোন সার্ভে সার্টিফিকেট নেই। আমি নিজে এ সম্বন্ধে অনুসন্ধান করেছিলাম। সেই ফেরী সার্ভিসের মাধ্যম মাঝেই বলেছিলেন, “এ ঠীমার কোন সার্টিফিকেট নাই”। কিন্তু সরকার পক্ষ এ সম্বন্ধে নীরব। এইরূপ দুর্ভুক্তকারী ও আইনভঙ্গকারী বন্ধন করা কি গভর্ণমেন্টের কর্তব্য নয়? আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যাত্রীগণ কার কাছে তাদের অভিযোগ আনবে? বেশী যাত্রী যে ঠীমার কোম্পানী বহন করছে তার সাক্ষ্য প্রমাণ কাউকে দেখিয়ে দেবার যদি বাধ্যনা না থাকে, তাহলে ঠীমার কোম্পানী কখনই নিজেদের ত্রুটি স্বীকার করবে না। স্বতরাং কোম্পানীর কথায় সায় দিয়ে জনসাধারণকে ভাঁওতা দিয়ে নিজেদের অকর্মণ্যতা সাময়িকভাবে ঢাকা যায় বটে, কিন্তু সত্যকে চিরতরে ঢাকা যায় না। এই কথা বলে আমি আমার Cut motion এই হাউসে উপস্থিত করছি।

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: With your permission, Sir, I beg to move, on behalf of Mr. Satindra Nath Sen that the demand of Rs.5,41,000 for expenditure under the head “30—Ports and Pilotage” be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about (1) the failure of the Government to provide for adequate training in pilotage services and (2) nationalisation of steamship companies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা দেশ একটি নদীবহুল মাধ্যম। এখানে যাতায়াতের জন্য ঠীমারের অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজন। যখন Government সকল বিষয় nationalizationএর কথা চিন্তা করছেন—Electric Supply Corporation nationalised হ’তে চলছে, Tramway Company nationalise করবার জন্য লারী করা হ’চ্ছে, Railway ও nationalise করা হয়েছে, তখন ঠীমার কোম্পানীকে যে কোন nationalise করার কোন ব্যবস্থা হ’চ্ছে না তা আমরা ভেবে পাই না। বাংলা দেশে, বিশেষ করে পূর্ণ বাংলায় ঘাঁরা বাস করেন, তাঁরা জানেন ঠীমার যাতায়াত কতদূর অসুবিধাজনক। এই Houseএ পূর্ণ পূর্ণ বৎসরে এবং এবারও ঠীমার যাত্রীদের দুঃখ-দুর্দশার কথা অনেক আলোচনা হয়েছে। এ হয় কেন? এ হয় কারণ যে ঠীমারের নির্বাহিতা Companyএ একচেটিয়া অধিকার। বাংলার বিশেষ বিশেষ রাজ্যগুলিতে R. S. N. এবং I. G. N. Company ঠীমার চালাবার একবার অধিকারী। কাজেই তারা যথেষ্ট ভাবে যাত্রীদের নির্বাহিতা করতে সাহসী হয়। তাদের এই নির্বাহিতা থেকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য এবং তাদের এই দুঃখ-দুর্দশার বোঝা কমানোর কেউ নেই।

গভর্নমেন্টের নিকট কত আবেদন নিবেদন করা হয়েছে, তাঁদের দৃষ্টি এদিকে বহুবার আকৃষ্ট করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় গভর্নমেন্ট সে Companyর দুঃখের দিকে চেয়ে উলানীন হয়ে আছে। হয়ত আপনাদের সমরণ থাকতে পারে যে ঢাকা জেলার ঢাকা-আরিচাং মধ্যে একটা Railway Line খোলা দ্বিধা হয়ে গিয়েছিল। তখন এই দেশে বিলাত থেকে এক সাহেব এসেছিলেন। আপনারা এও হয়ত জানেন যে এই সাহেবটি ট্রান্স কোম্পানীর স্বার্থের সহিত বিশেষভাবে ভুক্ত। তারই চেষ্টায় সেই সিদ্ধান্তটি উল্টে গিয়েছিল এবং সেই সিদ্ধান্তটি পরিবর্তন হওয়ার ফলে আজ পর্যন্ত আমরা এই দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করে চলছি। আমি আশা করি বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্ট জনসাধারণের দুঃখ-দুর্দশা দূর করার জন্য অবিলম্বে এই Steamer Companyকে nationalise করার জন্য ব্যবস্থা করবেন এবং এও আশা করি এই সভায় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এ কথা ঘোষণা করবেন। Steamer Company সম্বন্ধে আমাদের সকল দুঃখ-দুর্দশার কথা যদি বলতে হয় তাহলে অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে শেষ করা যাবে না। কাজেই দুই একটি আমি এখানে উপস্থিত করবো।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আপনারা দেখেছেন যে Company steamer চালায় যে যে লাইনে তারা স্রবিশা মনে করে। তাই ভিতর আবার কখন কখন কোন লাইনের steamer কমিয়ে দেয় এবং কখন কখন বাড়িয়ে দেয়। যদি কখনও এ দেশীয় কোন লোক ছোট নৌতে steamer চালাবার চেষ্টা করে তখন দেখা গিয়েছে যে R. S. N. এবং I. G. N. Company competition লাগিয়ে দেয় এবং হয়ত আপনাদের মনে থাকতে পারে যে আমাদের ঢাকা জিলায় সিরাজদিখান একটি দেশী Company ছোট steamer চালাতে চেষ্টা করেছিল। তাদের হাবিয়ে দেওয়ার জন্য R. S. N. এবং I. G. N. Company competition অবস্থ করল এবং এমন কি বিনা পরসায় লোক নিয়ে যেত। কেন তারা বিনা পরসায় নিত? আমাদের দরমের জন্য নিশ্চয়ই নয়। নিত তাদের লাভের জন্য কেন না যদি একবার এই দেশী Companyকে হাবিয়ে দিতে পারে তবে তাদের বাণিজ্যক্ষেত্র একচেটিয়া করে যথেষ্ট অত্যাচার যাত্রীদের উপর করতে পারবে। সেই প্রতিযোগিতায় তাদের হাবিয়ে দিল এবং বেড়ে গেল যাত্রীদের দুর্ভোগ। আপনাদের হয়ত অনেকের মনে আছে যে একবার একটা বিলাতী কোম্পানীর সাথে দেশীয় কোম্পানীর প্রতিযোগিতা হ'ল বেঙ্গলে যাওয়ার লাইনে। সেই সময় Steamer Company যাত্রীদের বিনা পরসায় নিয়ে যেত। এমন কি কমান পরসায় বিতরণ করা হয়েছিল। আমাদের দেশে অত্যাচার চালাবার জন্য দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ যে রকম অব্যবহার সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে তা' আমরা কিছুতেই ভুলতে পারি না। কাজেই আমি আশা করি এই গভর্নমেন্ট যারা জনসাধারণের ভোটাংশ জোবে এখানে এসেছেন এবং গভর্নমেন্ট পক্ষেব সদস্যবর্গ যারা আছেন তাঁরা সকলেই আমার এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করবেন এবং এই প্রস্তাব যাতে গৃহীত হয় তার চেষ্টা করবেন।

এই উপরকে আর একটা কথা বলা প্রয়োজন। সেটা হচ্ছে Pilot শিক্ষা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা। আমাদের বাংলায় Pilot শিক্ষা দেওয়ার কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। Steamer Company nationalise করার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাঙ্গালী হিন্দু-মুসলমানকে Pilot শিক্ষাদানের ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন। এই উপরকে আর একটা কথা না বলে পারি না। বর্তমানে Steamer Companyর যে ব্যবস্থা আছে তাতে যাত্রীদের যে দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করতে হয় সে সব বিষয় আমার বক্তৃতার প্রথমে কিছু কিছু বলেছি। এখানে আর একটা কথা উল্লেখ করছি; সেটা হচ্ছে ট্রান্স হাটগুলিতে বিশেষ করে পদ্মা লাইনে আশ্রয়হীন বলে কিছু নেই। বর্ষার দিনে, ঝড়ের দিনে যাত্রীরা আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করতে পারে তাই কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। (Red light shown) আর এক মিনিট, শ্রাব। কাজেই এই গভর্নমেন্টের উচিত ট্রান্স কোম্পানীকে চাপ দিয়ে পদ্মার মত বিশেষ বিশেষ লাইনগুলির প্রত্যেক ট্রেনে যাত্রীদের জন্য বিশ্রামাগারের ব্যবস্থা করা। আর স্থানে স্থানে কলীরা দ্বিতীয় এবং Interclass যাত্রীদের নিকট হ'তে অনেক সময় rate-এর চেয়ে বেশী পরসায় দাবী করে। এ বিষয়েরও প্রতিকার হওয়া উচিত। আমি আশা করি বাংলা সরকার ট্রান্স কোম্পানী nationalise করে যাত্রীদের দুঃখ-দুর্দশার প্রতি অবহিত হবেন এবং এই সভায় তার প্রতিকারের ঘোষণা করবেন। এই বলে আমি এই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করছি।

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the attitude of the members of this side of the House seems to be always misunderstood and charges are levelled against this side mostly without any just reason. If the allegations are analysed, in short it comes to this: as if the members of this side of the House have mortgaged their conscience to the Ministers. But really that is not so; that cannot be so. My friends opposite know the parliamentary practice everywhere that the party forming the Government supports the Ministry, but that does not necessarily mean that the conscience of the members of that party is lost and that their conscience is blurred.

The thing is that the position is misunderstood. There are many eminent members, many learned members on the opposite side who have on many occasions made very good proposals before the House on very important matters of public utility. No doubt those proposals deserve every consideration from every section of the House.

The point regarding the inconvenience of the passengers caused by the steamer service which has been raised today by my friends opposite is certainly admitted by all sides of the House. We also travel by steamer and we also suffer inconvenience in the same way as my friends on the other side do. Certainly there is no sufficient arrangement for the convenience of the steamer passengers. In order to come to Calcutta from Mymensingh I have to come either *via* Santahar-Tistamukhghat, Phulchhari and Bahadurabad, or *via* Jagannathganj Ghat-Serajganj. Due to mismanagement and incompetence of the authorities the ferry steamers do not always ply. Sometimes the river bed is silted up and no effective arrangement is made to run the steamer service. (A voice: What about dredgers?) Probably dredgers are now silted up. We do not know whether they are going to be re-excavated or not! The fact remains that there are inconveniences for the passengers of the deck—I mean third class passengers—for the inter-class passengers as well as for the second-class passengers. Regarding first-class passengers also there are inconveniences—the previous arrangements are not continuing. One of my friends over there has struck a note that it is high time that this steamer service should be nationalised. I fully agree with my friend opposite. It is high time that Government should take it over and there should be national steamer service all over the Province.

Of course we cannot today support cut motions of my friends opposite (Cries of "why, why" from the Opposition Benches). But when my friends come over with a resolution, certainly there is no bar for the members of this side to support that resolution. When a similar resolution is brought by the members of this side of the House, they also expect to obtain similar support from the other side.

If the feeling of inconvenience is really genuine, I think we should have co-operation in this respect from all sides of the House.

Regarding other matters the fact that there are inconveniences is admitted and I do not think I should say anything more in this respect.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have full sympathy with the grievances that have been ventilated by the members on the floor of the House and Government are fully aware of the difficulties experienced by passengers in steamers and at the steamer ghats. My friend Mr. Sharfuddin has said that the Steamer Company sometimes ceases to maintain daily service. That is true. That, I think, happens during dry season, because river beds are then silted up. For this neither the Steamer Company nor the Government are responsible. This is a matter which is in the control of nature, and unless a great deal of money is spent for dredging operation in the river, it is not possible to make the rivers navigable throughout the year and that is a major problem. Government will surely examine this question to see that passengers are not inconvenienced.

With regard to other allegations that have been made Government will certainly examine the points that have been raised during the debate and will try to remove the grievances as far as it lies within the power of Government.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions and commend the motion for demand for grant under the head for the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya that the demand of Rs.5,41,000 for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Benode Chandra Chakraborty that the demand of Rs.5,41,000 for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs.5,41,000 for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs.5,41,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

36—Scientific Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.48,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments".

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the sum of Rs.48,000 for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure to give grants to (i) the Association for Cultivation of Science in India, (ii) the University College of Science, (iii) the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad.

মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যে ৪৮ হাজার টাকা under the head "36—Scientific Departments" এর জন্য শরী উপস্থিত করেছেন, আমি সেই শরী থেকে ১০০ টাকা বায় হাগ করার জন্য একটি হুঁসিট প্রস্তাব দিচ্ছি। তিনি The Association for Cultivation of Science in India, the University College of Science, এবং The Bangiya Sahitya Parishad এর জন্য কোন বায় বরাদ্দ করেননি বলে আমাকে এই পুছার উত্থাপন করতে হচ্ছে। পূর্বেকার বাজেটে আমরা দেখেছি যে ৪৭ কোটি টাকা নিয়ে নাড়াচাড়া হলো, কিন্তু তাতে কুলোনা না বলে আরও ১০ কোটি টাকা বাহিত বলে সর্বসমেত ৫৭ কোটি টাকা বায় করা হলো।

আজ জগৎ চলেছে বিজ্ঞানের উপর নির্ভর করে। সেই বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে ৪৭ কোটি টাকা আয়ের মধ্যে মাত্র ৪৮ হাজার টাকা বায় বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। এটা বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত লজ্জার কথা। এ ব্যাপার সহজে যে কি বলবে তা ভেবে উঠতে পারছি না।

শ্রীকার মহোদয়কে আমাদের বক্তৃতা বন্ধ করতে হলে পর, বিজ্ঞানের সহায়তা নিয়ে Chair-এ বসেই একটা বোতার টিপে লালবাড়ী আলিয়ে বলেন যে "আপনি আর বক্তৃতা কববেন না"। আর মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কিনা সেই বিজ্ঞানের ব্যাপারে অধিক খরচ করতে রাজী নন। এই গরমের দিনে, পাশা না দিয়ে শীতলতা উপভোগ করছেন তারা, সেটাও কিন্তু বিজ্ঞানেরই থালা। আমরা লেগেতে পাচ্ছি, কলিকাতার বহুকাল থেকে আরম্ভ করে একটা বৈজ্ঞানিক প্রতিষ্ঠান চলে আসছে, কিন্তু তারা বাংলা সরকার থেকে কোন সাহায্য পায় না। এটা অত্যন্ত লজ্জার কথা যে, আজ তারা নিরুপায় হয়ে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টকে ছেড়ে ভারত গভর্নমেন্টের নিকট সাহায্য শূণ্য না করতে। তারা ভাবছে যে বাংলায় যদি বিজ্ঞানকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে হয় তাহলে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের দিকে তাকালে আমাদের চলবে না, স্বতরাং "যে ভারত গভর্নমেন্ট, তুমি আমাদের সাহায্য করো"। এত বড় লজ্জার কথা বাংলা কিভাবে গ্রহণ করবে, লেকথা ভাবতে আমরা শুধু ধুপাই নয়, আমি নিজেও অত্যন্ত লজ্জিত ছিছি। তারপর কলিকাতার বিজ্ঞান কলেজের কথা। এই কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেন স্যার রাসবিহারী ঘোষ ও টি. এন. পালিত। তাঁহাদের বহু পরিশ্রম ও চেষ্টার ফলে আজ কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সমস্ত ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে সবচেয়ে উপরে স্থান পেয়েছে। আজ কিনা সেই Science College-এরই বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের কাছ থেকে কিছুটা শান পাননি। বিজ্ঞানের সহায়তা করে তারা কোন অর্থ ব্যয় করেন না। দুঃখের কথা আর বলবে কি? অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের বাড়ী হচ্ছে বক্তৃতা জেনার। সেখানেও তথাকার কলেজে বিজ্ঞানের ব্যবস্থা আজ পর্যন্ত হতে পারেনা না। তাঁর হাত দিয়ে ৪৭-৪৮ কোটি টাকা কত রকমে উড়ে বাচ্ছে, কিন্তু আমরা বিজ্ঞানের জন্য কিছু পেশা না। কলিকাতার "কলী"

সাহিত্য পরিষদ" বলে একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে। এটা ঠিক বিজ্ঞান না হলেও, এটা একটা ভাষা বিজ্ঞানের প্রতিষ্ঠান। মানুষের শ্রেষ্ঠ ভাষা দিয়ে নির্ণয় করা হয় স্বভাৱ। সেই ভাষা বিজ্ঞানের তথ্য নিয়ে যে প্রতিষ্ঠান কাজ করে তাকে যদি আমরা সাহায্য না করি, তাহলে আমাদের শ্রেষ্ঠ প্রতিপনু করবে কোথা থেকে? এ বিষয়ে অধিক বক্তৃতা করার বিশেষ কিছু নেই, কারণ, এখানে যারা বসী ও সভা আছেন, তারা অনেকেই বর্তমান শিক্ষার শিক্ষিত, স্বভাৱে তাঁদের নিকট বিজ্ঞানের কথা নতুন করে বোঝাতে হবে না। তবে বর্তমান শিক্ষার শিক্ষিত নন এমন যদি কোন সভা থাকেন, তাঁকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই যে, তিনি আজ বর্তমান বিজ্ঞানের সকল সুবিধা ভোগ করছেন। কাল তিনি বহু হাজার মাইল দূরে পড়ে ছিলেন, আর আজ তিনি rail গাড়ীতে চড়ে কলিকাতায় এসে, এই সভায় বক্তৃতা করছেন। অতএব তিনি বিজ্ঞানের উপকারিতা নিশ্চয়ই উপলব্ধি করছেন। স্বভাৱে তারা যদি বিজ্ঞানের ক্ষেত্রে কোন সহায়তা না করেন, বিজ্ঞানের উন্নতি কতপদ অর্থ সাহায্য করার জন্য সক্ষম না হবেন, তাহলে সেটা শুধু একটা আক্ষেপের বিষয়ই নয়, এটা আমাদের জাতীয় জীবনের পক্ষেও লজ্জার বিষয়। তাই আমি মাননীয় বসী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি যে, এই বিজ্ঞান চর্চার জন্য তাঁরা যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ অর্থ সাহায্য করুন, এবং ভবিষ্যতে যাতে এই বিজ্ঞানের প্রতি কার্পণ্য করা আর না হয় তাব জন্য বিশেষ চেষ্টা করবেন।

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the sum of Rs.48,000 for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to increase the donation to the Malda Museum.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is known to honourable members that museums are institutions of historical and cultural education of a nation. They must have noticed also that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad after assuming office as Education Member of the Interim Government is going to spend a crore of rupees for an Archeological Institute and Museum of India, and a considerable sum of money for its maintenance and upkeep because he feels that knowledge of the historical growth of a nation's culture is an essential part of human education, and so we find that every civilised and progressive Government in the world feel it their duty to spend a considerable sum from their exchequer for the cause of the museums and other Archeological Institutes. I know that the Government of Bengal whose Ministers act in a way as if they are the partners of business firm of profits and gains to their own selves and their kith and kin, to the party to which they belong and above all to their community, can have no intention to take as much interests in the matter of museums and scientific departments as a civilized Government ought to do. Still I urge upon the Government to look into the matters that concern education about cultural and historical development of a nation. Sir, the district of Malda is famous for containing the ruins of several old capitals of Bengal, especially Gour and Pandua, both during the Hindu and the Muhammadan periods. It abounds in various sorts of articles of antiquity. It will be of interest to the members to know that the richness of the ancient ruins of Gour and Pandua attracts every year not only visitors from different parts of India but also visitors from foreign countries. The Malda Museum, I am glad to say, is very rich in rare collections of key stone sculptures of the Pal and Sen periods, scarcely found in any other museum. 200 ancient manuscripts, some of them of about 4,500 years old, 400 ancient coins of both Hindu and Muhammadan periods and a very valuable copper plate of Gopal Deva II of about more than a thousand years old that promises to throw a flood of light in the history of Bengal, have enriched it. In the recently published History of Bengal, Vol. I, Dr. R. C. Mazumdar, the famous historian, has made copious references and reproductions of many sculptures in the collections in Malda Museum as well as an original paper on the Lakshmi Sambat contributed by its Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. N. Misra, M.R.A.S. The Bengal Government has recognised the importance of the Malda Museum by assigning it sixth place in the long list of Museums entitled to have a share in the Archeological finds of the Government of India as published in the "Calcutta Gazette" dated 6th August, 1942.

Sir, the small room of the Museum is too small to accommodate all the existing collection of stone-sculptures. Moreover it is felt necessary that

some valuable and interesting stone-sculptures, locked up in a small room adjoining the Gumti Gate in the ruins of Gour, 12 or 14 miles away from the Malda town, not easily accessible to the general public, should be removed to the Malda Museum so that they may be utilised by the public. At the approach of the Museum authorities the Archeological Department of the Government of India under whose control these articles are at present placed are willing to transfer them to the Museum provided there be arrangement for their sufficient accommodation. Moreover, there are further scope of collection of articles of antiquity in which the district of Malda abounds. Sir, I know that the Museum authorities are trying all along and have applied for increment of Government donation to the institution, namely, Rs.50 only per month in place of the present paltry sum of Rs.30. This demand, I understand, has been recommended by the District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi. I do not know if Government will accept the recommendation of these officers. Further for the construction of the Museum building a lump grant of Rs.30,000 or so has been asked for by the authorities. From the facts placed before the House I think the Minister in charge will agree with me that the Government will be failing in their duty if they do not increase the monthly recurring grant and donate the lump grant to this useful institution of the province, being the third of its kind so far as Bengal is concerned, leaving aside Calcutta, Dacca and Rajshahi Museums. I do not think that this Government which is spending 43 crores this year cannot do it now if it is sincere about it. I would therefore earnestly appeal to Government to be generous about the matter, regard being had to the cultural and educational advance of the province.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, would you kindly permit me to move my motion at this stage?

Mr. SPEAKER: It was called and you did not rise and I have passed it over. Ordinarily I would not allow it; I allow it, however, as a special case this time, but in future members who have given notice of cut motions should be more attentive.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.48,000 for expenditure under the head 336—Scientific Departments be reduced by Rs.100.

The object of my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to restore to its original condition the Art Gallery and the Art Section of the Indian Museum.

Some years ago the Indian Museum was requisitioned by the military and all sections of the Museum were closed to the public. Now some portion of this Museum has been reopened to the public and I had occasion to visit the Art section. I was surprised to find that many of the exhibits have not yet been restored, and on enquiry I have found that the exhibits that were sent out of Calcutta have not yet come back and it is not at all known whether they will be coming back.

Secondly there are paintings of many famous artists like Nanda Lal Bose, Abdur Rahman Chaghtai and others. I would draw the attention of the Government to the fact that if these pieces of treasures are lost, they would be lost to the community as a whole. Therefore greater care and attention should be given to these pictures and they should be placed where they originally stood.

With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY : বিঃ শীকার, যার, আসবা লবাই
আপা করি অনুব তবিসাতে আসাদের দেশ স্বাকীন হবে। আসাদের এই দেশ পৃথিবীতে তার গোণা হান নীচুট
অধিকার করবে। কাজেই অতি স্বাভাবিকভাবে আসবা আপা করেছিলো যে বিজ্ঞানের দিকে, সাহিত্যের দিকে

আমাদের গভর্নমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হবে। সরকারী যে কোন বিভাগের দিকে তাকালে দেখতে পাই যে ঐ সব বিভাগের বাজেট অসন্তব রকম বেড়ে গিয়েছে—এক Civil Supply বিভাগ শুধে নিচ্ছে বাংলা বাজেটের অনেকখানি। শ্রেণ্ড অশ্রেণ্ড হাতীর খোরাক যোগাতে গিয়ে এখানে বরচ হচ্ছে কোটী কোটী টাকা। ইংরেজরা চলে যাচ্ছে কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও বাজেটের অঙ্ক কমছে না। সরকারী নীতির অসামঞ্জস্য একটা উদাহরণ দিলেই বোঝা যাবে। বন বিভাগে ৪৪ জন অফিসার নিচ্ছেন ৩ লক্ষ টাকা, অথচ এখানেই আড়াই হাজার কর্মচারীর বেতন মাত্র ৫ লক্ষ টাকা। কিন্তু মহী মহালয়ের কাছ থেকে আমরা তেমন কোন আশুস পাইনি যে Top heavy administration-এর পরিবর্তন করা হবে। এটা অত্যন্ত লজ্জার বিষয় যে বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষার জন্য গভর্নমেন্ট মাত্র ৪৮ হাজার টাকা দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, এটা বর্তমান যুগে কোন সভ্য দেশের পক্ষে গৌরবের ব্যাপার নিশ্চয়ই নয়। বিজ্ঞানের নৌলিক গবেষণায় যে জাতি যত অগ্রসর হবে, সে জাতি উন্নতির পথে ততখানি এগিয়ে যাবে এই সহজ সত্য কর্তৃপক্ষের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছে না। তাই বিজ্ঞান গবেষণার পুষ্টি আমাদের অবহেলা। এখানে “কাট মোশন” বুজ করে কেউ বলেছেন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে আরও টাকা দেওয়া উচিত ছিল, কেউ বলেছেন বঙ্গীয় সাহিত্য-পরিষদের কথা, কেউ মালদহ মিউজিয়ামের কথা বলেছেন, কেউ বলেছেন ঢাকা মিউজিয়ামের কথা। আমাদের দেশবাসীর অবৈজ্ঞানিক মনোবৃত্তি সুবিদিত। নূতন বিভাগ সৃষ্টি করে আমাদের মনোবৃত্তির পরিবর্তন সাধনের চেষ্টা করতে হবে। অন্যান্য সভ্য দেশের তুলনায় বাঙ্গলার ও বাঙ্গালী জাতির মনোবৃত্তির পরিবর্তন সাধনের যথেষ্ট প্রয়োজন আছে। এদেশে এখন পর্যন্ত বিজ্ঞান চর্চার কোন সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত কেন্দ্র নাই। নিঃসহজ নাথ সরকার, স্যার রবণ, স্যার আন্তোয় বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষার জন্য এখানে সেগানে কিছু আয়োজন করেছেন। কিন্তু এসব আয়োজন ভাগ্যবান মুষ্টিমেয় লোকের মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ। বিজ্ঞানকে সমগ্র জাতির জীবনের সামগ্রী করে তুলবার আয়োজন কোথাও দেখা যাচ্ছে না। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে সায়েন্স কলেজে যে Applied Chemistry পড়ার ব্যবস্থা আছে তাতে মাত্র কয়েকটা ভাগ্যবান লোকের পক্ষে শিক্ষালাভ সম্ভব হয়। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জন্য টাকা ব্যয় হওয়া সুখের কথা, কিন্তু ঐ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের দরজা যদি জনসাধারণের জন্য উন্মুক্ত না হয় তাহলে শুধু তেলো মাধ্যম তেল দেওয়া ছাড়া আর কি হবে? বিজ্ঞান চর্চার জন্য গভর্নমেন্টের যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক বরাদ্দের ব্যবস্থা নেই, নাই এ সম্বন্ধে কোন সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা। গভর্নমেন্ট মাঝে মাঝে কিছু সংখ্যক ছাত্রকে বিদেশ থেকে উচ্চশিক্ষার শিক্ষিত করে আনেন বটে, কিন্তু যারা বিশেষ ভাগ্যবান, কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে আনাগোনা করবার সুযোগ আছে যাদের তাঁরাই শুধু সে সুবিধা পেয়ে থাকেন। এ সম্পর্কে সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনাব্যয় আজ প্রয়োজন হয়ে পড়েছে। আমার মনে হয় Matriculation স্তর হতে পুষ্টি বংসব চার পাঁচ শত ছেলেকে পরীক্ষার ফল দেখে নির্ণয়িত করে বিজ্ঞান চর্চার জন্য বিদেশে পাঠিয়ে শিক্ষিত করে আনলে দেশে বিজ্ঞান চর্চা একটা শ্রেণীর মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ না থেকে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে প্রসার লাভ করতে পারে এবং তাই দ্বারা দেশের জনগণের প্রকৃত মঙ্গল হতে পারে। বিজ্ঞানের নীতি শিক্ষা করলেই শুধু হবে না, বৈজ্ঞানিক নীতি যাতে জাতীয় জীবনের সকল ক্ষেত্রে প্রয়োগ করা যায়, বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দিতে হবে সে দিকে। বিজ্ঞানকে সাধারণের জীবনের সামগ্রী করে তুলতে হবে; এক কথায় এই বিভাগকে নূতন করে চলে সাজতে হবে। আজ আমরা যে কোন সভ্য দেশের দিকে তাকালে দেখতে পাই বিজ্ঞান চর্চা আর কোন বিশেষ ভাগ্যবান গোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ নেই, জনসাধারণের সামগ্রী হয়ে পড়েছে। বাংলাদেশে বহু সরকারী বাড়ীর পড়ে থাকে, এগুলো বিলাসের উপকরণ ছাড়া কিছু নয়। আমরা এগুলোকে জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলার্থে বিজ্ঞানাগার ও সাহিত্যাগারে পরিণত করতে পারি।

আমাদের দেশে যে মিউজিয়াম আছে সেগুলিও মধ্য যুগীয় আদর্শে তৈরী। জনসাধারণ এইসব থেকে বিশেষ কোন উপকার পাচ্ছে না। জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে এগুলোর বিশেষ যোগাযোগ নেই। জনমনকে এরা পারে না আকর্ষণ করতে। কলিকাতার যে চিড়িয়াখানা ও যাদুঘর আছে সেগুলিও সংস্কার সাধন করা প্রয়োজন। বিজ্ঞান-সম্বন্ধভাবের সংস্কার করে নিয়ে আমাদের বাড়ীর সহিত এদের যোগ স্থাপন করতে হবে। কবি হাইকেল বহুসুন ও হেমচন্দ্র বাঙ্গলার জাতীয় কবি—সাহিত্যে এদের দান অক্ষর হয়ে থাকবে। কিন্তু শেষ বয়সে তাঁদের অর্থাভাবের জন্য বহু প্রতিবন্ধকতার মধ্য দিয়ে সাহিত্য চর্চা করতে হয়েছে। কাজী নজরুল ইসলামকেও ঐ ধরনের বহু অজ্ঞাবহের মধ্য দিয়ে আজও চলতে হচ্ছে। করেক বংসর থেকে গভর্নমেন্ট কয়েকজন সাহিত্যিককে সাহিত্যিক বৃত্তি হিসেবে কিছু কিছু অর্থ সাহায্য করবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, কিন্তু তাঁদের ৬ মাস অন্তর নূতন করে দরখাস্ত করে নূতন করে বৃত্তী নিতে হয়। এ ব্যবস্থার পরিবর্তন করতে হবে।

গভর্নমেন্ট বিজ্ঞান ও সাহিত্য চর্চায় জন্যে মাত্র ৪৮ হাজার টাকা দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন এটা বড়ই লজ্জার কথা।

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY : Two minutes, Sir ; আবাদের সাহিত্য ও বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ সাহিত্যের ক্রমবিকাশের ব্যাপারে যথেষ্ট সাহায্য করতে পারে। বাঙ্গলা ব্যাকরণের পরিবর্তন যে প্রয়োজন হয়ে পড়েছে তা কেউ অস্বীকার করতে পারবেন না। বাঙ্গলা সাহিত্যকে ঋণাত্মক শতাব্দীতে ফেলে না রেখে কতকগুলি লোকের মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ না করে প্রকৃত জনগণের সাহিত্যে পরিণত করতে হবে। এ ব্যাপারে সরকারী দায়িত্ব কম নয়।

আমরা যে বাংলা ব্যাকরণ পড়ি তা এক প্রকার সংস্কৃত ব্যাকরণ ছাড়া আর কিছু নয়। এই ব্যাকরণ পরিবর্তন করে প্রকৃত বাঙ্গলা ব্যাকরণ লিখার প্রয়োজন আছে যাতে বাঙ্গলা ব্যাকরণ প্রকৃত বাঙ্গলা ব্যাকরণরূপে সকলের বোধগম্য হয় ও বাঙ্গলা সাহিত্যের সঙ্গে এর সহজ যোগাযোগ স্থাপিত হয়।

বাঙ্গলা গভর্নমেন্টের সাহায্য সহানুভূতির উপর কয়েকটি বিশিষ্ট ভাণ্ডারান সাহিত্যিকের একচেটিয়া অধিকার। নৃত্যিকবেব সঙ্গীতশাস্ত্রী সাহিত্যিকবা সরকারী সহানুভূতি পায় না কোন দিনই। সাহিত্যের ইতিহাস রচনা, অভিধান তৈরী, বর্ণমালা ও অক্ষর সংস্কার, বৈজ্ঞানিক গবেষণা (সাহিত্য ও বিজ্ঞানে) ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে গভর্নমেন্টকে দৃষ্টি দিতে হবে।

সাহিত্যকে বিশেষ কোন সম্প্রদায়ের বা শ্রেণীর সাহিত্য করে না রেখে জনসাধারণের সাহিত্যে পরিণত করতে হবে। বাঙ্গলা বর্ণমালার পরিবর্তন করার সমস্যা আজ বড় হয়ে উঠেছে। বর্ণমালায় আমাদের ঞ, ঞ ইত্যাদি বহু অক্ষর পড়েছে হয়, কিন্তু সাহিত্য ক্ষেত্রে তাব কোন ব্যবহার দেখি না। ছাপার উন্নতির জন্যে, মস্তিষ্কের অপচয় বন্ধ করার জন্যে বৈজ্ঞানিক নীতিতে বানান, অক্ষর ও বর্ণমালার সংস্কার সাধন করে সাধারণের বোধগম্য সহজ বর্ণমালা ও শব্দমালার প্রচলন করা আজ প্রয়োজন। সংস্কৃতের প্রভাব থেকে মুক্ত করে ভাষাকে ও করে তুলতে হবে জনগণের বোধগম্য।

ভাষা নানানীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নিকট আমার বিশেষ অনুরোধ তিনি যেন বিজ্ঞান চর্চা ও সাহিত্য চর্চায় জন্যে সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেন। মুসলিম সাহিত্য সমিতিগুলো সরকারী বিভাগ থেকে চিবকাল বৈবাত্রেয় ব্যবহারই পেয়ে এসেছে। এদিকে ও তাঁর দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হওয়া উচিত।

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is fully conscious that the amount provided for the Scientific Departments is very inadequate but Government has its difficulties. This year we had to go in for making very large provisions for introduction of primary education on compulsory basis and provision for a very large amount had to be made also for increasing the pay of the teachers of primary schools. As a matter of fact, we had to scrap many important projects not only of the Education Department but also of the Buildings and Communications Department, for meeting the cost of compulsory education and increment in the pay of Primary School teachers. For these reasons we are very much handicapped for money and we could not provide as much money as we wanted for this very important department of Scientific Research. At the same time we must say, Sir, that some of the members have remarked that nothing has been done for scientific education. That is not correct at all. For advancement of scientific knowledge we have got a project in our Post-War Development Scheme of developing the laboratories of motussil colleges and in pursuance of that scheme we have earmarked 4 lakhs for Government Colleges and 8 lakhs for Aided Colleges. We are also sending a very large number of young men for scientific education abroad as we know full well that if India is to be industrialised and it must industrialise if it is to be self-sufficient economically, it must go in for scientific education and research. It was with the greatest regret that we could not make sufficient provision for the Scientific Association and it was due to shortage of money on account of provision for primary education and increasing the pay of the teachers of primary schools.

Sir, now coming to particular instances, I may take first the Association of Cultivation of Science in India. It has been said that no contribution has been made towards that Association. The Association approached Government for a capital grant of 4 lakhs and they had at the same time mentioned that they had approached the India Government for 13 lakhs and that the India Government enquired of them whether the Government of

Bengal were agreeable to acquire necessary lands for them. They approached us again and wanted that we should immediately give our consent to the acquisition of land, they could then approach the Government of India and get the necessary money. We at once gave them our consent to the acquisition of land but the question of granting capital money of 4 lakhs has not yet been finally considered. They have agreed to pay the cost of acquisition immediately but the question of payment of capital grant which they have asked for is pending.

As regards the University Science College, this is one of the very good schemes which we originally thought of financing but with the greatest regret we had to scrap it with some of the other very useful schemes, as I have already said, for providing money for increasing the pay of primary teachers and the introduction of compulsory education. We consider primary education as the primary need of the country and in view of that we had very regretfully to scrap some of our very useful schemes.

Mention has been made with regard to Art Gallery. Art Gallery and Art Section of the Indian Museum are under the control of the Government of India. This Government only makes a contribution of Rs.8,000 per annum which is half of the cost of the establishment of the institution. No demand came from that Section that they required more money for keeping it in a proper condition. If we had received any such application we would have certainly considered it.

Then, regarding the Malda Museum, it is in receipt of Rs.360 per annum towards the cost of maintenance. Recently the Museum has approached us for a further grant of Rs.600 and a capital grant of Rs.13,000 towards the cost of construction of the building. These proposals are under consideration and we have not yet disposed them of. (Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: What about Bangiya Muslim Sahitya Samiti?) There was no demand from the Sahitya Samiti. They are in receipt of Rs.1,200 per annum, but there has been no demand for further additional grant from that body, so nothing more has been given.

I have nothing more to say. I have already said that we are fully conscious of the necessity of making more adequate grants for these scientific associations and bodies. With these words I oppose the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Suresh Chandra Das Gupta that the demand of Rs.48,000 for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ramhari Roy that the demand of Rs.48,000 for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Rs.48,000 for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain that a sum of Rs.48,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments" was then put and agreed to.

42—Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.30,87,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation".

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.30,87,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about failure to utilise co-operative societies for developing cottage industries for providing the urgent necessities of life of the masses.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if today there is need for one thing above everything else it is co-operation. Everything today is out of joint and there is need for co-operation amongst nations, races, parties and individuals. In the economic field we find that the rich is getting richer taking advantage of the shortage of supply and the want of the people, but the poor are getting poorer and impoverished. The heartless profiteering instincts know no bounds. Sir, whereas previously one anna per maund of rice was regarded as a reasonable profit by merchants, today Rs.2 to Rs.5 per maund does not satisfy them. Where an anna or half an anna per pair of cloths was thought as reasonable profit, today the cloth merchants will not be satisfied with Rs.2 profit. These are the circumstances which are impoverishing the people. It is apparent that for some time to come the black marketeers and profiteers will rule the country however much we may resent it. In order to fight this menace, this profiteering greed, this capitalistic greed, the only thing necessary is to have co-operative organisations for production, procurement and distribution, and there is no other way for fighting this evil. Sir, this must be an all-out effort of the entire 60 millions of this province of Bengal. What I have stated above, I am sure, admits of no doubt or controversy. We are painfully conscious of the moribund condition of the co-operative movement in this province. Instead of movement there is stagnation everywhere. While provinces like the Punjab and Madras are going ahead in this respect Bengal is ever lagging behind.

Sir, the budget estimates demonstrably show the utter poverty of Government's policy. If you look at page 78 of the estimated expenditure you will find, Sir, Rs.19 lakhs and 35 thousand is provided under the head "Superintendence of staff" and this year there is an additional provision of Rs.7,65,000 for reorganisation of staff, thus an expenditure of Rs.27 lakhs on staff out of a total demand of Rs.30,89,000. This position will itself show how bankrupt is the policy of Government. Who does not know that this top-heavy administration and charge on superintendence has not only not prevented the societies to go into liquidation but possibly have contributed to it. Who does not know that inefficiency is the badge of most of those who work in that department? Who does not know that knowledge of co-operative principles or the experience of co-operation work in other places is not the criterion for recruitment? Whether one belongs to this community or the other is the only consideration. Fulfil your communal ratio if you like but not at the cost of the co-operative movement itself and do not pay the price of that policy by increasing the miseries of the people.

Sir, what we need today is people who can do productive work; we need people who have tact and driving power; we need people in the Co-operative Department who can enthuse the people and who can make an all-out effort of the entire people for production and distribution. Sir, promotions in this service should depend upon how many successful societies has such an officer sponsored; emoluments ought to depend upon the productive nature of the societies. Of course you can multiply the staff; you can spend Rs.27 lakhs for staff out of a demand for Rs.30 lakhs, but it will not develop the co-operative movement. Sir, may I only give one instance? The House knows that on account of want of yarn most of the handloom weavers were without any work and were on the verge of extinction. I was invited to a conference on behalf of the handloom weavers of the district of Dacca in whose development I have been taking an interest from the year 1916-17. The Hon'ble Minister himself was present at this conference. There was a talk that co-operative societies should have organisation among the weavers; they ought to be given the yarns to be distributed amongst them under the superintendence of the Co-operative Department. It was an obvious thing, but would you believe me, Sir, that the Minister of Civil Supplies who was presiding over that conference said that the department had already fixed up with some of the dealers and he will have to take time to consider what

should be done. Sir, such an obvious indecision, such a wrong policy will ruin the entire economic basis of our province. The same is the story with fishermen's nets and Irrigation societies. I am also not unmindful that some of the industrial unions are not above corruption. What I would like to say is: change this policy of stagnation and top-heavy expenditure of the staff. Realise and utilise in full the co-operation of non-officials imbued with a spirit of service and not guided by petty personal ends. Without losing a day spread a network of co-operative organisations for production, procurement and distribution to consumers at least of the bare necessities of life and for development of home industries allied with agriculture. We can assure the Government that if they embark on such a planned working policy we from this side of the House will extend full co-operation in order to make such work a success. I will say, co-operate for increasing production, co-operate to keep down prices and to fight black marketeers, co-operate to foster fellow feeling and good will, co-operate to restore communal harmony and for the good of the people or perish by following the policy of stagnation and drift.

MR. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.30,87,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs.100, to raise a discussion about general policy.

My friend Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti will be speaking.

MR. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: সভাপতি মহাশয়, যে প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপিত হয়েছে সে যত্নে আমি দুই একটি কথা বলবো। আমার পূর্ববর্তী বক্তা গুপ্ত মহাশয় যা বলেছিলেন তাতে সম্ভাব্য পদ্ধতি কত দূর পর্যন্ত অগ্রসর হওয়া উচিত তাই বিস্তৃত বর্ণনা হয়েছে। স্বাধীনতার সমস্ত ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ করে অর্থনীতি বিভাগের সমস্ত ক্ষেত্রে সম্ভাব্য পদ্ধতি প্রচলিত হওয়া উচিত। যদিও বাইরে Co-operation বা সমবায় এ কথা রয়েছে কিন্তু তাই উপলব্ধি Heading দেখলে দেখা যাবে তাতে ঋণ দানের কথাই রয়েছে।

এই ঋণ দান চাড়া অন্য কোন ক্ষেত্রে সম্ভাব্য পদ্ধতি অনুসারে কাছ করা হয় না। বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্ট সে সম্বন্ধে অগ্রসর হয় নি। অতীতকালে যদি না হয়ে থাকে তা হলে বর্তমানে সেটা করা তাদের পক্ষে একান্ত দরকার। বাংলা দেশে দুই প্রধান শস্য রয়েছে—পূর্ববঙ্গে পাট এবং পশ্চিম বঙ্গে ধান। চাষাধা পাট এবং ধান উৎপাদন করে কিন্তু সম্ভাব্য পদ্ধতি না থাকায় দরুন ন্যায্য দাম পায় না। আমি আত্মকে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের বেঙ্গিনীপুর জেলায় কয়েকটি দান কি করে চাষাধা ধানের দাম কম পাচ্ছে তা এই আইন সভার কাছে উপস্থিত করছি। আইন সভার প্রত্যেক সদস্য জানেন যে বাংলা দেশের কোন কোন জেলায় এখন ২৫ টাকা থেকে ৩০ টাকা পর্যন্ত চালের মূল্য হয়েছে। কিন্তু বেঙ্গিনীপুর জেলায় ধানের দর ৬০ টাকা বা সবে ৫৫ টাকা যা ৬০ টাকা পাচ্ছেনা। আজকে কয়েকটি চিঠি পেয়ে শোনছি যে সম্ভাব্য পদ্ধতিতে ধান বিক্রি করবার সুবিধা না থাকায় দরুন কৃষকেরা কি রকম ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে। ১৯৩৮৪৭ তারিখের একটি চিঠিতে এ কথা রয়েছে—“পাট নাই ধানোর মূল্য এখানে প্রুতি মণ ৫৬০ ও গড় ধানোর মূল্য প্রুতি মণ ৫১০০ চলিতেছে।” ১৯৩৮৪৭ তারিখের আর একখানা চিঠিতে লিখেছে—“আমি ছুদপাড়া বাজারের ঠোরে গিয়াছিলাম, কিন্তু কাহারও দেখা পাইনি, তবে স্থানীয় লোকের মুখে শুনিলাম যে ওয়া পাটনাই ধান্য মণ প্রুতি ৫৬০—৫৬০ পর্যন্ত নিচ্ছে এবং গড় ধান্য ৫১০০ হিসাবে ক্রয় করিতেছে।” ১৯৩৮৪৭ তারিখের একখানা চিঠিতে লিখেছে—“আমি কাঁধী হইতে বোগাতে উপস্থিত হইয়া গোড়াউনের এজেন্ট বাবু বিহুতি চরণ মহাশয়ের সহিত আলোচনা করিয়া দেখিলাম যে ওখানে গড় ধানোর মূল্য ৫১০০ ও পাটনাই ধানোর মূল্য ৫৬০ উক্ত হিসাবে ক্রয় করিতে নাযায়। অতি সম্ভব ইহার বিহিত ব্যবস্থা করিতে অনুবোধ করিব।” ১৯৩৮৪৭ তারিখের আর একখানা চিঠিতে লিখেছে—“আমি কাঁধী হইতে বসনপুরে উপস্থিত হইয়া গোড়াউনের এজেন্টশাল আলীউদ্দিন মিক্কার সহিত পরিচয় করিয়া উহার নিকট হইতে বাহা শুনিলাম, ত্রীহা অতি বিশদ্রব কথা। তিনি নিজ খুসে বলিতে চান যে গড় ধান্য ৫১০০ হিসাবে এবং রকম ধান্য ৫১০০ হইতে ৫৬০ পর্যন্ত লইতে পারি। তাহার সহিত আমি অনেক প্রুতিবাদ করিতে তিনি বলিতে চান যে তোমার সাথে কোন অর্ডার আছে—আমার তেখানেতে পার যে আমায় ৬০ টাকা হিসাবে ধান্য ক্রয় করিতে হবে। আরও বলেন যে আমবা যে কোন দর ধান্য ক্রয় করিতে পারি।” ১৯৩৮৪৭ তারিখের একখানা চিঠিতে আমাকে জানাচ্ছে—“কাঁধীতে ধান ক্রয় বিক্রয় হয় নাই। কালিনগরে ধান ক্রয় বিক্রয় হচ্ছে, তবে ধান সবে কোন ঠিক নেই। যেখানে বেবন পারে—সেই রকম দাম দেয়। সাধারণতঃ

৫১০ হইতে ৫৫০ পর্যন্ত ধান কেনা বোটা হইতেছে। এ ছাড়া বণ করা ১০ সের বসন নের। এটা খুবই ব্যয়। তাই এ মধ্যে একটা বিধিত ব্যবস্থা করণ। এই আমার বিনীত অনুরোধ। দেশের লোক ধান বিক্রয়ে খুবই ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছে। একটা Rate হওয়া চাই। ঐ Rate টা যেন Producersরা পায়।”

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you speaking on Co-operation?

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I am trying to say how the Co-operative movement has been a failure in certain respects. Its scope should be wide. That is my contention.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will be brief.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: All right Sir, I shall be brief.

Yes—এখন আমি এ কথা বলতে চাই যে ধানের প্রয়োজনীয়তা বাংলা দেশের সর্বত্র এবং যেখানে বিশেষ করে যেখানে ২৫০/৩০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত দামে চাল বিক্রি হইতেছে, আর বাংলা দেশের আর এক অঞ্চলে মেদিনীপুর, বাঁকুড়া এবং অন্যান্য স্থানে ৬০০ টাকা দরেও ধান বিক্রি হইতেছে না। এর মূল কারণ হচ্ছে সমগ্র পদ্ধতির অভাব। আজকে যদি সমগ্র পদ্ধতিতে উৎপাদন জিনিষ বিক্রি করার ব্যবস্থা থাকত তা হলে এই অবস্থা হইত না, এবং ঠিক একই কারণে পুণ্ড্র বস্ত্রের চাহিদা পূরণে উপযুক্ত মূল্য পায় না। আশা করি Civil Supply বরা মন্ত্রণালয় এ বিষয় বিশেষ লক্ষ্য দিবেন। আমার সময় চুটিয়ে যাচ্ছে। আমি ২২ প্রশ্ন মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলতে চাই। ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালের বাজেটে Development Programme যে ৪ লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হয়েছিল তার মধ্যে ১ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার টাকা Revised বাজেটে কেন বর্ধা হইল। এই বর্ধার ৫ লক্ষ টাকা কিসে বর্ধা হইল আমার কেউ জানিনা। Co-operative Societyর জন্য ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সনে ৩০ হাজার টাকা ধরা হয়েছে।

Mr. SPEAKER—Mr. Maiti, your time is up.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI—Thank you, Sir. Revised বাজেটে ৫ টাকা ধরা হয়েছে। কি কাজ হয়েছে অনুশ্রুত করা জ্ঞান।

Mr. KANAI LAL DE : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি এই টানিটি প্রস্তাব সহজে কয়েকটা কথা বলতে চাই। আমার এক্সপোজিচন প্যু উল্লেখ করেছেন যে সমগ্র বিভাগে মোট ১০ লক্ষ টাকার মধ্যে ২৭ লক্ষ টাকা কেবল কলকাতা পৌরসভা কর্তৃক ব্যবহৃত হয়। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট যেন দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের জন্য একটি ডোজের আয়োজন করেছেন আর তাতে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের পরিবারে গভর্নমেন্টের কন্সট্রাক্টিবাইটি ডোজে বসে গিয়েছেন, এটা অত্যন্ত হৃদয়াকর বসাপার। যে বিভাগে ১০ লক্ষ টাকার মধ্যে ২৭ লক্ষ টাকা কেবল মাত্র কলকাতার পৌরসভার জন্য ব্যয় করত হয় সে বিভাগে কাজ হবে কি দিয়ে? স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি দেখছি বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট যে কয়টি মুখোস্তপ্রধান বিভাগ আছে এই সমগ্র বিভাগটি তার মধ্যে অন্যতম। এই সমগ্র বিভাগে মীরা কল্লভের পদ অবিকার করে আসছেন সমগ্রায় সহজে তাঁদের জ্ঞান অতি অল্প। এই বিভাগে যে সমস্ত কন্সট্রাক্টিবাইটি নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে, তাদের সমগ্রায় সহজে কোন শিক্ষাই নাই। সমগ্রায় সহজে ইউরোপের, জার্মান, রাশিয়া প্রভৃতি দেশ অতি উচ্চশ্রম দুইটি, সেখানে সমগ্রায় পদ্ধতিতে জনসাধারণের অপরিশীল উন্নতি হয়েছে এবং কৃষি, শিল্প, পণ্যপালন প্রভৃতির প্রতিনিয়ত উন্নতি হচ্ছে এই সমগ্রায় আমরা সংসদপত্রে পাই কবি কিম্ব শালার দুঃখ, আমাদের দেশ-শাসনে নানা বিষয়ে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের যে উদ্যোগ এবং অসমতার পরিচয় আমরা পাই সমগ্রায় বিভাগ তার থেকে বাদ পড়ে না। মাত্র কয়েক বৎসর পূর্বে সমগ্রায় বিভাগে একসঙ্গে ১৫টা Co-operative Bank এর Defalcation Case চলছিল। এই বাংলা দেশে মোট ২৮টা জেলায় ১৫টা Co-operative Bank এর Defalcation Case চলতে তাতে এই বিভাগ সহজে কি বনে হয়? এই বিভাগের Registrar, Assistant Registrar, District Inspector, Auditor তারা কি বেতন নিয়েই খুঁড়িয়ে থাকেন, আর তারা কি চোরকে চুরি করতে বলেন? এই সমস্ত ব্যাপারের সহিত তাঁদের ও যোগাযোগ আছে কিনা কে জানে? কিন্তু ততই এই প্রশ্ন বনে যাবে যে ১০ লক্ষ টাকার মধ্যে সেখানে ২৭ লক্ষ টাকা কেবল মাত্র কলকাতার পৌরসভা-ই ব্যয় হয় সেখানে এত দুর্নীতি, প্রতারণা, উদ্ভিল তরঙ্গ কি করে ঘটে? এই সমগ্রায় বিভাগের কাজ যদি ভালরূপে চলতে তাহলে যুদ্ধের সময় বাংলাদেশ যে বহু লক্ষ দুর্গতি ভোগ করেছে তার হাত থেকে কতকটা রেহাই পেত। বাংলার জনসাধারণ বস্ত্রের অভাবে যে অশেষবিধ লালনা ভোগ করেছে যদি এই দেশে সমগ্রায় পদ্ধতিতে তত্ত্বাবধানের মধ্যে বস্ত্র পুঙ্খত করার জন্য সূতা বণ্টনের ব্যবস্থা থাকত তাহলে বাংলার লোককে এই নিশঙ্কন বস্ত্রের কষ্ট ভোগ করতে হোত না। বাংলা দেশের একটি জেলার কথা আমার বিশেষভাবে জানা আছে, সেটা বাঁকুড়া জেলা। এই বাঁকুড়া জেলার প্রায় ১৬

হাজার তাঁত আছে এবং বয়নশিল্পে এখনকার তাঁতীদের যথেষ্ট পুসিকি আছে। যদি এই সকল তাঁতীদের সমবায় পদ্ধতিতে যুতা বিতরণ করা হোত এবং সমবায় পদ্ধতির দ্বারা এই সকল বস্ত্র বণ্টনের ব্যবস্থা করা হোত তাহলে বাংলার অধিকাংশ লোকের বস্ত্রের অভাব একা বাকুড়া জেলাই দূর করতো। বাকুড়ার তাঁতিরা স্বল্প স্বল্প ধৃতি, সাড়ী ও চাদর তৈরী করে। কলিকাতার বাজারে আজকাল অধিকাংশ পোকানৈ বাকুড়ার দিছানাব চাদর দেখা যায়।

বাকুড়ার কাঁশাপিন্ডলের বাসন প্রস্তুত করবার অনেক কার্খকার আছে। বৃহৎ সময় হতে তারা তাদের প্রয়োজনীয় জরায়াদি না পেয়ে বাসনাদি তৈরী করতে পারছে না। অনেকে দুর্ভিক্ষের করলে প্রাণ হারিয়েছে। এবং বহুলোক বেকার হয়ে পড়েছে। আমি Co-operative Department কে সমবায় পদ্ধতিতে এই সমস্ত কার্খকারদের বাসন তৈয়ারী করবার উপযোগী বসাদা সরবরাহ করতে অনুরোধ করছি যাতে তারা পুনরায় নিজেদের কুটীর শিল্পে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হতে পারে। বাকুড়া রিলিফ কমিটি থেকে একদা বহু চিঠি লেখালেখি করা হয়েছে কিন্তু কোন ফল হয় নাই, তাই আজ আবার সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। এই বিভাগে যে দুনীতি চলছে তার দিকে যেন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দৃষ্টি দেন, যেন ৩০ লক্ষ টাকাও মগধে ২৭ লক্ষ টাকা কেবল কার্খকারীরাই নিঃশেষ করে দিয়ে নিশেচই হয়ে বসে না থাকেন।

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, when I rise to speak on the Co-operative budget this afternoon, I intend to do so in general terms. We all know that the Department of Co-operative Credit came to function in Bengal under the Central Act of 1912. Thereafter a Royal Commission sat on Agriculture which was presided over by no less a person than the Earl of Linlithgow, and it was His Lordship's expectation that the co-operative movement would so develop in this country that in years to come it would not be necessary to form any territorial constituency for any election whatsoever but that the co-operative societies will be the constituencies in all elections that might be held in this country.

Sir, with the growing needs of society, it was felt by some that the Act of 1912 consisting of 50 sections did not meet the aspirations and expectations of the people. It went on in that way. Under the constitution Act of 1919, we know that this department was treated as a part of the department of Agriculture. It was not given to the Legislature of the day to have any discussion on the activities of the department, nor was there any facility made available to them to offer any suggestion as to how the departmental activities could be improved.

Sir, it was only after the reformed Constitution came into operation in 1937, that the Department of Co-operative Credit Societies of Bengal came to be discussed on the floor of the House in September of that year. Various defects were pointed out and various suggestions were made about its improvement. The subject was taken up by the then Government with seriousness. In January 1938 a conference of non-official gentlemen taking keen interest in the co-operative movement of the province was held. With the materials that were then made available to the Government along with the suggestions that were offered by this conference in January 1938, a comprehensive Bill was drafted. This was placed before the House in August, 1938 and it was referred to a Select Committee on which sat amongst others the present Minister-in-charge of the Department. After two years' deliberation the Act was passed by both the Legislatures in 1940. In this Act you will find that various classes of societies were thought of and at the instance of many members who took part in the deliberations of the Select Committee, irrigation societies, embankment societies and even supply societies to be able to supply the necessities of every house-holder in the countryside were also thought of. When the measure came out, it was expected that after the rules were framed under the Act, the provisions were put into operation, it would be of great help to all concerned. We all know that for the co-operative movement to develop and to foster it is necessary to have the honesty and good will of everyone and interest. With that noble object in view the officers of the department should be so trained that they might go round the countryside and inspire confidence in the public mind and earn respect and love of those for whom they would be called upon to work. The Government of the day spent a large sum of money to train up a fairly senior member of the Indian Civil

Service for undertaking this great work for the development of this movement in the countryside. He came from his training and along with him were also trained up a large number of officers of various description to be able to help him in this work. Sir, it is a matter of very great surprise and perhaps of sorrow to one who is conversant with this movement that all these officers are now shunted out of this department. Along with this, training firm to the officers, a small committee of non-official experts was appointed to examine the subject and to find out the difficulties of the members of the village societies. This committee gave a report to the Government and it transpired that the debt of the members of the Co-operative Societies numbering about 30 thousand was in the neighbourhood of 6½ crores. Of this amount, Rs.3½ crores represented interest and the principal amount was found to be in the neighbourhood of Rs.3 crores. A suggestion was made that steps should be taken so that the debts could be brought down within the paying capacity of the members in order that in the long run the members might be free from their old debts, and at the same time, there would be developed a spirit of co-operation in the minds of the people that they might get into the habit of self-help and in the end it might not be necessary to fasten them with any further debts. With that object in view, Special Debt Settlement Boards under the Agricultural Debtors Act of 1935 were formed to deal only with the debts of co-operative society members. We do not know what further action was taken about it.

The then Government thought it fit to help the Provincial Co-operative Bank by offering them material help. In 1939, a sum of Rs.13½ lakhs were advanced to them and to this amount Rs.6½ lakhs was added by the Provincial Co-operative Bank, making a total of Rs.20 lakhs. This amount was made over to the Central Banks, numbering about 119. They sent out this money to the village societies. The result was that there was a great fillip given to the movement. In return, not only this money with interest but a larger amount of outstanding debts came back. On seeing its effect, the movement spread out. In the year following— in 1940 a sum of Rs.60 lakhs was advanced by Government to the Provincial Bank and the money came back with all the interest. Feeling the effect of this step taken by the Government of the day, next year a further sum of Rs.60 lakhs was given. It was intended that the person who would be called upon to undertake any work in connection with this movement would be able to hold out their hands of love and co-operation to the people with whom they might be called upon to work. We now find that from Rs.15 lakhs provided for the Department in 1939, the budgeted provision has been increased to Rs.30 lakhs, but, as has been pointed out by my friend Mr. J. C. Gupta, out of this amount Rs.26 lakhs is sought to be given to the staff. What the staff will do we do not know! On the contrary, we find that in 1944-45, an expert was brought in from Madras to go into this question. We do not know what his suggestions were. But it has been reported that all that he could think of was to put a certain officer of the Senior Service at the head, whether he has any experience of the movement or not, and whether he has any heart in the development aspect of the movement at all. He rather feels that any officer will do and under him will be placed a number of officers who will be drawing a salary of Rs.100 to Rs.150 and these officers will be sent out to the countryside only for the purpose of collecting debts. How this money will be collected or what amount of spirit will be generated in the minds of the people, nobody knows; perhaps the procedure to be adopted would be the certificate procedure under the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act. If this is the way of treating this department and this movement, and if this is the way of generating the spirit of love and co-operation in the minds of the people, perhaps the sooner the department is abolished, the better. It seems that we have now been brought in to this stage.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak out my mind on this demand of a dying department of the Government. I shall begin from the point where Mr. Mullick, an ex-Minister of the department, left.

Sir, I shall refer to the sheer indifference, callousness and apathy of the department about rehabilitation of rural credit. I shall take up the non-official side of this movement first and I shall show how with a persistent short-sighted policy of the Government it has been killed. The Co-operative Alliance Limited, a powerful non-official organ of the co-operative movement in this province, has been totally killed. The Ministry which went out of office by the ruling of the Chair put it under liquidation for no fault of it, only for political reasons best known to the then Government and the then Ministry. Just before the Ministry went out of office, the then Minister in charge of Co-operative Department passed an order to withdraw this order of liquidation but soon after the 93 regime prevailed in Bengal and afterwards this Government came in. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any action has been taken to withdraw this order of liquidation on the Co-operative Alliance? On account of this apathetic treatment to this non-official organ, the most powerful journals like the Co-operative Journal in English and Bhandar in Bengali have been stopped and they are not in circulation. The publicity staff of the Alliance have been totally liquidated.

Sir, this is not the only instance of the Government killing the non-official side of this movement. Government is trying to officialise the committee of management of all co-operative societies. There is a tendency and there is a demand from all sides and all sections in the province to do away with the system of nomination, and, Sir, you know on the recommendation of the Rowlands Commission the system of nomination even in the Union Boards has been abolished by the Government notification. Government issued a letter to all departments including the Co-operative Department that Government officials are not to take office in autonomous co-operative bodies. To my surprise and to the surprise of all I tell the House that Government has flouted this recommendation of that Commission and the rule which was made for nomination into these bodies has been amended. Formerly the rule was that one-fourth of the elected directors or three, whichever is less, may be appointed by nomination, but that rule has been given a go-by and an amendment has been made recently that to the extent of half can be appointed. What is the intention behind this amendment? The intention is to induct a set of persons in the Board of Management of Co-operative Societies so that they may always be subservient to this Ministry and to the Government. Thus there is an attempt everywhere to kill the non-official side and non-official activities of this movement.

Sir, coming to the Budget itself I draw the attention of the House to the Civil Budget Estimate and the Red Book and I ask them to see that "Co-operation" has covered only half a page. There is a provision for Rs.30 lakhs and odd, not for any development work nor for any other work but for the payment of salaries, honorarium and T.A. and so on and so forth. This brings into my mind an analogy, namely, the appointment of brilliant staff for school without the school building and other teaching appliances. Sir, what these officers will do? There was an occasion for Government to revitalise.....

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to continue.)

Sir, Government had an occasion during the abnormal wartime to stabilise and rehabilitate rural credit. The Co-operative Societies could have been

improved and their finances stabilised. These societies and multiplication of other societies could have been utilised for the distribution of the essential necessities to the people and thereby could have rehabilitated their finances in the mufassal. But instead of doing that Government by an executive order formed Food Committees and certain committees under jute regulation to distribute essential commodities to the people.

(The red light was again lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you have finished.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I want two minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have refused permission to Mr. Mudassir Hossain at the cost of the House. (Laughter.) Try to finish quickly.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I shall finish in two minutes. Sir, what is the scheme of Government for rehabilitation? I do not see any scheme whatsoever. In other countries of the world improvements have been effected through Co-operation so far as agriculture, sanitation, scientific and other essential developments are concerned. But where are the provisions in the Budget here for such developments? Where are the provisions in the Budget for irrigation development? Where are the provisions for collective farming on scientific method? Where are the provisions in the Budget for the improvement of cottage industries and to improve the lot of weavers of Bengal? Sir, weavers of Bengal form a substantial part of the population who could have been rehabilitated through co-operation. In our Subdivision the Co-operative Department have done nothing. We have formed several co-operative societies of the weavers and although there is scarcity of the supply fund, you will be glad to hear that within a short time a big reserve of yarn has been formed in each union and this will help to some extent in nation-building. If Government had tried to form the societies of these weavers irrespective of caste and creed in Bengal, there would have been a real rehabilitation and with a big reserve in their societies they could undertake nation-building activities like education, sanitation and irrigation. Sir, there are cobblers and *chamars* in our country. They could have been brought under the fold of this co-operation and their lots could have been improved. At the same time the people of Bengal could have got the necessary supply of cloth and shoes on cheaper rate. In the Budget, Sir, I do not see proposals for any such thing. Therefore, I submit that the sooner this Co-operative Department closes down the better.

Mr. DEWAN LUTFAR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to enter into a discussion on the Demand on 42—Co-operation. This is the most neglected Department of the Government of Bengal—a department run without any scheme for future development of the co-operative system. The Co-operative Act, rules and bye-laws are all defective, misconceived and fall far below the standard law on the subject of other countries of the world where co-operative system plays a prominent part in the matter of nation-building and equalising the lot of the poor with others. I suggest that Government should take immediate steps to recast the law on the subject and to bring in schemes for reorganisation of this Department.

The Co-operative Central Banks and other rural societies that came into existence since the passing of the Co-operative Act of 1912 have been a dismal failure in every district in Bengal and those societies have now become an engine of oppression to rural people of Bengal. I do not know of any Central Co-operative Bank which is in running condition today. The unlimited liability is one of the causes of the failure of the system of co-operation. It has come to my notice that a man borrowed money in 1914, paid off entire principal with interest within two years and died.

Afterwards his son was proceeded against in liquidation proceedings and again had to pay the sum borrowed by his father and now the turn of grandson to pay has come. In this way the demand and the payment will go on till the day of resurrection. For want of scheme and intelligent management more than 3 crores of rupees have been locked up without any possibility of recovery. More than 40 to 45 thousand primary societies have gone to liquidation and proceedings of contribution are going on year to year without realisation. I suggest that Government will pay attention to the development planning of the Department according to the suggestion of Rowlands Committee. Government will also consider if agricultural loans can be distributed through co-operative societies to increase the popularity of the Department. Under the present system supervisors are appointed by Central Co-operative Banks. The business of Central Banks being locked up it is not possible for Central Banks to appoint qualified men with good pay. If the Central Banks are to be dragged out of their submerged condition, I suggest that supervisors are to be appointed by Government with a scale of pay.

With these few words I support the demand.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the budgeted expenditure under this head last year was Rs.27,68,000 of which approximately Rs.25 lakhs was actually spent. The additional expenditure this year is on account of the proposed expansion of staff in the course of the current year. The staff expansion scheme was prepared under the advice of Sir Hugh Hood, Adviser to the Department, before the advent of the present Ministry. Under the scheme the annual expenditure is expected to involve a steady increase over a five-year period, until it amounts to a sum of Rs.39.7 lakhs.

The staff will be expanded to include 2 Joint Registrars, 5 Deputy Registrars, 41 Assistant Registrars, 21 District Auditors and a staff of 1,798 Inspectors and Auditors. On my assuming charge of the Department I was struck by what I considered the inadequacy of the proposed reorganised scales of pay, and accordingly under my instruction the Directorate has modified the scheme, and I feel sure that the new scheme will merit greater popular support, and ensure a contented and well-paid staff. The inadequacy of our staff requirements may be gathered from the fact that although our existing staff is smaller in many respects than similar staff in other provinces, the number of societies to be supervised and audited exceeds 42,000 out of a total of approximately 95,000 for the whole of India.

The scheme provides for separation of audit work from general supervision in accordance with a long established popular demand. This separation will, I feel sure, ensure a regular and efficient audit of our co-operative societies in the future, and will remove a very great shortcoming in the administration of the Directorate. Constant and regular audit will be the best protection against corruption in the movement. I have laid it down as a principle that recruitment of superior grade-staff for the expanded department, including the posts of Inspectors and Auditors, will be made only with the approval of the Public Service Commission, and through competitive examinations for the clerical and subordinate staff. This will I feel sure, remove for ever the complaints of nepotism, favouritism and jobbery, which have in the past been made against the Department.

I shall mention another important circumstance. The Directorate has recently put up a proposal to introduce the starting of two services for the Directorate, a senior Co-operative Service, and a Junior Co-operative Service as in the case of other departments. If approved, this will go a long way towards overcoming our greatest shortcoming, the lack of trained and specialised cadres.

As an earnest of the firm intention of the Ministry to thoroughly overhaul the Directorate, we have placed at its head a responsible and energetic officer with district experience.

I shall now draw a brief picture of the routine working of the Directorate. The demand for credit in the rural areas is conditioned by the prices of agricultural commodities prevailing at any time. As is well known, the prices of commodities have maintained a fairly high level for the past year, and consequently the demand for co-operative credit has not been very pressing. But this Government is prepared to meet the demand in full of our credit societies where it is known that such credit will be co-operatively and productively utilised. In this connection I may mention that the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank has come up to Government with a request for Rs.45 lakhs for the current year as against a provision of Rs.30 lakhs last year, for loans to members of co-operative societies. In 1946, the Provincial Co-operative Bank due to its improved financial position was able to utilise Rs.23.53 lakhs out of its own funds to meet the demand for loans.

We have not relaxed our efforts in the matter of collection of arrear co-operative dues. The collection figure of Provincial Co-operative Bank's dues rose from Rs.25.84 lakhs in 1944-45 to Rs.37.53 lakhs in 1945-46. Similarly for Central Banks the figure rose from Rs.56.73 lakhs in 1944-45 to Rs.77.68 lakhs in 1945-46. The Directorate has, as in the last year, initiated and maintained a collection drive for this year. The loans issued by the Land Mortgage Banks amounted to Rs.2.82 lakhs in 1945-46 as against Rs.1.50 lakhs in 1944-45. Collection of audit cess was the highest over a period of a decade and a half, and amounted to Rs.5.71 lakhs.

The collection of arrear co-operative dues has a great bearing on the question of rehabilitation of the agricultural credit movement in this Province. In 1945 the Government appointed a responsible officer of the Imperial Bank of India to draw up a scheme for the purpose. He has submitted his scheme which is under examination. The solution of the problem of reviving co-operative credit is rendered complicated by the fact that a sum of almost Rs.1 crore of frozen debt has got to be liquified in order to revive the confidence of depositors in our Banks and societies. Our collection drives in the past year, and in this, are intended to take advantage of the comparatively higher prices of primary products, to recover as much of arrears as possible, consistent with the repaying capacity of the borrowers.

Honourable members will join with me, I feel sure, in agreeing that the last world war has left no part of our administrative machinery and our rural economy untouched. The Co-operative Directorate was no exception. Due to war controls the number of non-credit societies and stores has been extended to cover the entire district of Rangpur, and in Kishoreganj subdivision a large part of controlled commodities is similarly distributed through a chain of multi-purpose societies. The total profits made by the Rangpur Consumers' Stores and Kishoreganj Multi-purpose Wholesale Society in 1945-46 amounted to Rs.1,38,000 and Rs.1,55,000 respectively. We have reason to believe that the profits in the course of the present year's transaction will be vastly more. Many of our Central Banks too have taken advantage of Controls and the profits arising from side-business in this way have run into many lakhs and have gone a long way towards helping the banks to pay off their depositors' dues. The Directorate has not been slack in helping and encouraging the Central Banks in this matter.

Mention may also be made of the fact that another co-operatively owned Rice Mill has been added this year to our already existing 3 mills, and a fifth one is under construction at Hili in Dinajpur district.

Out of a total population of approximately 2½ lakhs weavers in the Province, over 1 lakh or nearly 50 per cent. are organised in co-operative societies. There are 22 huge Industrial Unions or federation of such

weaver societies in districts and subdivisional headquarters. I shall give the Figures of Profits of some of the larger Industrial Unions for the year 1943—

- (1) Bikrampur Industrial Union—Rs.72,812.
- (2) Tangail Industrial Union—Rs.48,374.
- (3) Dacca Industrial Union—Rs.2,00,000 (approximately).
- (4) Mymensingh Industrial Union—Rs.27,574.
- (5) Jessore Industrial Union—Rs.37,304.
- (6) Malda Silk Union—Rs.82,795.
- (7) Tamluk Industrial Union—Rs.15,000.

As can be seen the profits from only these Unions run into many lakhs. The total paid-up share capital of all the 22 Unions runs into the huge figure of approximately Rs.15 lakhs. Honourable members will, I am sure, agree with me that now is the time to consolidate and strengthen these Unions, and our future aim is to cover the entire weaving population of our province by a chain of co-operative societies. Recently Government have sanctioned an Industrial Centre Schemes, with a view to revising our traditional cottage industries, and in order to organise them on progressive and business-like factory lines. For this purpose advantage has been taken of the offer of an interest-free loan of Rs.49 lakhs from the Central Government. It is the policy of the Government that our traditional cottage industries can be best organised on co-operative lines. This view is supported by the recently published report of the Co-operative Planning Committee of the Government of India. The Directorate has been instructed to examine the report very carefully, and to put up suggestions for early implementation of the main recommendations of the Planning Committee's report. The Directorate has prepared and submitted to Government schemes for the expansion of the Co-operative Training Institute and the provision of advanced training in co-operation of our district staff and also for the members and employees of co-operative societies in the districts. The Directorate will also lay special emphasis on the need for popularising the Co-operative Movement and its ideas throughout the rural areas. Among the other Development schemes submitted by the Directorate recently, for examination and sanction of Government, mention may be made of the scheme to expand the Co-operative Milk Societies' Union in Calcutta, and to make available to the middle-class consumers, and hospitals, milk at a considerably cheaper price. Another scheme deals with the fishing population of the province. It is intended to consolidate our larger Co-operative Fisheries Societies, and to organise more societies among fishermen. The number of fishing societies have increased from 100 in 1943-44 to over 600 to date. We are not unmindful of the shortcomings of the primary unlimited liability societies and we are considering a proposal for organising primary societies with limited liability in accordance with popular opinion in this province. The present Registrar of Co-operative Societies has prepared a scheme for organisation of Co-operative Multi-purpose Societies throughout the province, and has placed great emphasis on the recommendations, in this connection, of the Royal Commission on agriculture, the Famine Enquiry Commission and the views of various other expert Committees and Co-operators on this subject. I have mentioned in my speech the scheme prepared by the Banking Expert for the rehabilitation of the credit movement. We are paying great attention to this matter of credit rehabilitation and I take this opportunity of repeating an assurance once previously made on the floor of this House that the Government will not fail to honour its commitments in this respect, and in doing so I have instructed the Directorate to take steps to consult the largest possible amount of popular opinion in this subject, and to put a scheme for the approval of Government at an early date. In framing our Development schemes we are only taking

that amount of money out of the public exchequer as will set the movement on its feet. Once that happens the movement will be entirely self-financing. The magnitude of the task that we have set before us may be gathered from the fact that in the next five years we shall carry co-operation down to every agricultural family in the province. We shall endeavour at the same time to include the entire artisan class under Co-operatives. These targets go far beyond anything set anywhere, and more than 100 per cent. beyond the targets set by the Co-operative Planning Committee of the Government of India. We shall consider the unprecedented proposal of reducing the rate of interest on agricultural loan to a figure not exceeding $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This will be a great inducement for our agricultural population to become co-operative-minded and will be a measure of great relief to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I resume my seat I would like to tell every section of the House through you, that any specific complaint brought against any officer of the department or any society will receive immediate attention of Government and they will take prompt and adequate action in all such cases. I would also like to assure all my honourable friends that any suggestion for the improvement of the movement will receive the utmost possible care and consideration of the Department.

With these few words, Sir, I would request the House to sanction the demand.

The motion of Mr. J. C. Gupta that the demand of Rs.30,87,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dharendra Narayan Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 30,87,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman that a sum of Rs.30,87,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-34 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 18th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

[18TH MARCH,

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 18th March, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 205 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Plan of Government for future recruitment to high posts.

*165. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (General Administration) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided not to participate in the Interim Government's Scheme for future recruitment to the I.C.S. and other services and will instead have its scheme of recruitment, training, control and pay with regard to the I.C.S., I.P.S., and other Imperial Services?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the cause of such a decision?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) I presume the honourable member is referring not to the I.C.S. and I.P., which are recruited by the Secretary of State, but to the new services which will in the future replace those services. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government of Bengal consider it essential, and in conformity with public opinion in this Province, that they should have the fullest control over officers serving in Bengal in connection with the affairs of the Province, including powers of appointment, punishment and dismissal, which would obviously not be possible in the case of officers who are members of a service administered by the Central Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when and how the public opinion of Bengal was taken?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The public opinion is reflected in this House.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the matter was ever referred to this House and, if so, when?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The matter was not referred to this House.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Then how did the Hon'ble Minister come to the conclusion that public opinion is reflected in this House?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The popular Ministry itself is an indication that they command the confidence of the public.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Congress Party opinion in this House has ever been consulted?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No, it was not thought necessary.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme replacing the I.C.S., I.P.S., and other Imperial Services under the Secretary of State has been taken up by the Government of Bengal for consideration?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have never said that Government has decided anything.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for thinking that to consult the opinion of the members representing the Congress Party was not necessary when about half the population of the province is represented by the Congress Party?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: In the matter of administration it is not possible for the Government to consult every party.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do we take from the answer just given by the Hon'ble Minister that they will be always neglecting the opinion of half the population of the province in the matter of administration of this province?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The question of neglecting opinion does not arise.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the outline of the Interim Government's scheme in the matter?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not in a position to state it.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has ascertained that the adoption of the Interim Government's scheme will conflict with the principle that the Provincial Government will not have control over the officers that they appoint?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: If appointment and dismissal rest with the Central Government, it automatically follows that the Bengal Government will have no control over them.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has ascertained that the adoption of the Interim Government's scheme will mean that the Interim Government will have control over appointment and dismissal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The correspondence with the Central Government has been marked "Secret" and so I am not in a position to divulge it.

Maulvi MAJIBAR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bengal Government is retaining a good number of I.C.S. officers who are already serving?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No such policy has been adopted.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if the Government are not accepting the facilities offered by the Interim Government's scheme, what scheme they propose to adopt with a view, firstly, to train such officers and, secondly, in other matters of control?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: This Government may ask for assistance from the Central Government in the matter of training in a Central Training Institute.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the acceptance of the training facilities afforded by the Central Government will not have any interference with the principles and policies which the Government of Bengal would like to pursue with the help of these officers?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think it will interfere.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the substituted services for the I.C.S. and I.P.S. the Europeans will be taken?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter of detail on which I cannot say anything now.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the acceptance of the Interim Government's scheme will affect definitely the control that might be exercised by the Provincial Government?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: As the scheme cannot be laid before the House, I cannot pass any opinion at present.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I do not want the Hon'ble Minister to lay the scheme before the House, but, having seen the secret document, if the Hon'ble Minister is satisfied that it will conflict with the Provincial Government's control over officers.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: We think we will have no control over the appointment and dismissal of officers if we accept the scheme.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, after having perused the correspondence, whether he is definitely of opinion—and not just merely a matter of thinking—as to what will happen?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the salaries of the substituted services in Bengal will be in conformity with the salaries to be paid at the Centre?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The details have not been worked out.

The Bengal Veterinary College.

*198. **Dr. ABDUL AHAD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Bengal Veterinary College is affiliated to any University;
- (b) how the boys of the college are being examined every year; and
- (c) whether the college teachers hold any annual examination for promotions and final certificates?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain):

(a) No.

(b) and (c) Attention is invited to rules 20-22 and 34 of the "Rules for the Bengal Veterinary College and Hostels" as well as to the "Appendix" to the Rules, a copy of which is placed on the Library Table.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a large number of men were given training as vaccinators at their own expense?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why these persons were given training? Will he make an enquiry from his file whether a large number of people were given training, but they have not yet been appointed?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The question relates to the Bengal Veterinary College. I have nothing to do with vaccinators.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

8—Provincial Excise.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 38,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise".

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 38,17,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about excise policy of the Government of Bengal.

Sir, as I rise to speak on this motion a thought flashes through my mind as to what the position was during the Moghul period or during the Pathan period, whether there was any revenue secured under these heads during those periods. As far as I can remember, I do not find such a source was there during those periods. Tapping of such a source came with the advent of foreign rule and that too primarily for two reasons. Firstly, to secure an increased revenue, but more so, with a view to demoralise our people and to lull them into, what I should say, inactivity, so that they may not have conscience, they may not develop that sense of responsibility which they should with a view to fight a foreign rule gradually consolidating its position in this country. There was another object, Sir, for having this source of revenue introduced in the Budget. That was to establish excise shops predominantly into the working class areas with a view to seeing that the working class of our country never develops a conscience so as to be able to fight their employers for the securing of their demands or for the removal of their legitimate grievances. But whatever might have been the motive which actuated our Governments in the past when it was in the hands of the foreigners, such a motive can no longer exist when we have got a popular Ministry here, particularly so, when such a Ministry is a League Ministry, when such a Ministry wants to translate into practice the high moral principle preached by the Prophet; and particularly because of that fact certainly we cannot assume that the present Ministry is also actuated by the motive which actuated their predecessors. But we find that in spite of promises given very often since 1937—it was given, Sir, by the then Prime Minister the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq, that we are going to have prohibition in Bengal—although ten years have passed since then, we do not find any progress in that direction of prohibition in this Province. Even on a scrutiny of the Budget presented before us this year we find that there is an increased income from this source. That shows that the Government, the present Ministry, although it speaks one thing, does not try to give shape to it. It is not sincere, it is not honest, and it has not the vigour, even if it has the honesty, it has not the courage to give its proposals and programme a shape. Sir, I know the objections that would be raised against total prohibition. In fact, they were raised on the floor of this House this session in reply to a question put by me. There were two points raised. Firstly, that the habits of the people cannot be changed in a day at a moment's notice, and secondly that the experiments in the direction of introducing prohibition have failed in other countries and in other parts of the world. The second argument is all the more sinister, because it suggests pessimism. I would like to say that the conditions in other countries, the level of economic and social conditions in other countries and those prevailing in our country differ very much. We cannot draw our lesson from the failure in this direction of other countries, particularly so is the case with Bengal. I find from Government reports that the quantity of consumption of liquor is poorest in Bengal. I will give the figure for country spirit only. The average consumption of country spirit per hundred of population in 1933-34 is as follows:—Bombay 5.9 gallons, Delhi 3.26 gallons, Punjab 1.33 gallons, Madras 1.77 gallons and Bengal .49 only. This shows that the social consciousness of our people is very much against.

taking to drinking and is very much against alcoholism, and the Ministry of this Province can achieve success more easily, more promptly than the Ministries of other Provinces in India. In spite of that we find that other Provinces are going ahead. We find that Bombay is going ahead, we find that Madras is going ahead, we find that Bihar is going ahead in this matter but Bengal only is lagging behind. Particularly, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the deplorable conditions in Asansol where the labouring classes are composed of simple Santals and Bauris. I have seen that openly on the streets and on the maidans men and women without feeling any shame are drinking, buying country spirit, buying *pachai* and drinking. That shows that they have no shame.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE: মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, বাংলা সরকারের আবগারী নীতির আলোচনা সম্পর্কে আমাদের এই টাইমি প্রস্তাব। আমি আজ যে বিষয়ে এই টাইমি প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপন করছি তাহা বাংলার হিন্দু-মুসলমান উভয়েরই সমস্যা। আমি আজ যে কথাগুলি বলতে চাই, তাহা এপক্ষ হতে উচ্চারিত না হয়ে গভর্নমেন্ট পক্ষ হতে ওঠা ইতিপূর্বেই উচ্চিত ছিল, কেননা আদিকার খালা সরকারী ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত পক্ষ তারা ইসলামীয় এবং ইসলাম মতাপন প্রভৃতি কু-অভ্যাসকে সর্বাপেক্ষা পাপ ও নিন্দনীয় বলে মনে করেন ও ইসলাম ধর্ম মুসলমানগণকে এই সমস্ত কু-অভ্যাস হইতে সর্বতোভাবে দূরে থাকতে বলেছে। কিন্তু সত্যই সন্দেহ জাগে যে বাহাদুর আজ এই ইসলামের পরিচয় নামে গরীব মুক জনসাধারণকে ধর্মের নামে উত্তেজিত করে অপরিপক্ক তাদের নৈতিক কোন উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা না করে সাবা বাংলার আকাশ বিমুক্ত করে তুলছে। তাঁরা সত্য সত্যই কি মুসলমানের মতাপন রক্ষা করছেন? তাঁরা কি পরিচয় কোরাণের অমর্যাদা করছেন না? দুঃখের বিষয় বর্তমান প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল মুসলিমলীগ ময়িমুলী বাংলাব অত্র জনসাধারণকে বিশেষ করে স্বধর্মাবলম্বীদের এই কুপন্থায় প্রচলিত করে কি সর্বশক্তি সাধন করছেন তা কলিকাতা ও তৎপার্বতী শ্রীলপ কেন্দ্রগুলি পরিদ্রমণ করে আসলে সম্যক উপলব্ধি করা যায়। সেখানে মদ্য পান করে উন্মত্ত অশিক্ষিত জনসাধারণের গালাগালি, মারামারি ও হানাহানি প্রতিদিনের ঘটনা। পানী অহলেও উহা আজ বেশ প্রবল আকার ধারণ করেছে। সেখানে তাড়ি প্রস্তুত করার জন্য যে কোন লোক ইচ্ছা করলেই সহজে Excise হতে license পেতে পারে। শুধু এই নয়, তাড়ি করার জন্য দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে বিশেষভাবে উৎসাহিত করা হয়। একাত্তর পাঁচের জন্য Vendorশব্দ ও এই সমস্ত জনসাধারণকে license দেওয়ার সুবিধা করে দিয়াছেন। যে সকল Vendor বেশী তাড়ি তৈয়ারি করার license সংগ্রহ করে দিতে পারেন, তাদের পুনরুত্ত্ব করা হয়। আমি গভর্নমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করছি যেন তাঁরা এই ভয়াবহ কুপন্থা তুলে দেন। এই কাজে দল নাই, হিন্দু-মুসলমান নাই, কংগ্রেস-লীগ নাই; সকলেই স্বীকার করেন যে ইহা আমাদের অশেষবিধ অকল্যাণ সাধন করছে। দায়িত্বভারহীন গভর্নমেন্ট সর্ব সময়েই বলে থাকেন যে যতদিন না সরকারের এই শোচনীয় আর্থিক অবস্থার উন্নতিসাধন হবে, ততদিন এ-প্রশ্না উঠিয়ে দিয়ে গভর্নমেন্টের আয় কমান যেতে পারে না। তাঁরা এই কথা বলেন, দেশবাসী তাঁদের ব্যয়িত্বের দোষের জাতীয় গভর্নমেন্ট বলতে কি বুঝায়। গভর্নমেন্ট যদি প্রকৃতই জনকল্যাণকারী হন, তাহলে তাঁর শ্রম লক্ষ্য হবে কি করে জনসাধারণের নৈতিক, মানসিক ও আর্থিক জীবনের উন্নতি করা যায়। কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা আয় বৃদ্ধি বা বক্ষা করার জন্য মাননীয় রাজস্বসচিব মহাশয় বাজেট উপস্থাপনের সময় বলেছেন যে আগামী বৎসরে বরিশাল জেলায় prohibition প্রবর্তন করা হবে। হুখের বিষয় বটে, কিন্তু ১৯৩৭ হতে আজ দশ বৎসরের মধ্যে স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রবর্তন হওয়ার পর সর্বত্র বাংলার ২৮টি জেলার মধ্যে শুধু দুইটি জেলায় বাংলা সরকার এই জনকল্যাণকর কার্যে প্রতী হতে উৎসাহী হয়েছেন। জনসাধারণের প্রতি সহানুভূতির সম্যক পরিচয়ই বটে। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এ ব্যাপারেও তাঁর কর্মপন্থার বহু পরিচয় দিয়েছেন। তিনি এই জনকল্যাণকর কার্যের জন্য সরকারী তহবিলের যে সামান্য কতি হবে তা পূরণের জন্য অপর দিকে আবদারী বদের উপর কর বৃদ্ধি করবেন। যে টাকা জাতির নৈতিক জীবন ধ্বংস করে উপার্জিত হয় তা গভর্নমেন্টের কোন কার্যেই ব্যয় করা উচিত নয়। জীবন শেবি যে পারিজনীন গভর্নমেন্ট জনসাধারণের কার্য-রক্ষার জন্য প্রয়োজন যোবে কোটি কোটি টাকা ধার করেন। কারণ, গণকল্যাণই গভর্নমেন্টের প্রধান লক্ষ্য। কোন প্রকৃত সভ্য দেশের গভর্নমেন্টই আজ স্বীকার করতে লজ্জিত হবেন যে জাতির নৈতিক জীবন ধ্বংস না হলে আর কবে যাবে। কাজেই উহা বহু সত্ত্ব নহে। কিন্তু তাঁহাদের স্বরণ রাখা কর্তব্য যে জাতির আর্থিক, মানসিক ও নৈতিক জীবন উন্নত হলে ভবিষ্যতে গভর্নমেন্টের আয়ের উপর তাহা ভাল প্রভাব বিস্তার করতে যাবে।

আজ যে সমস্ত প্রদেশে কংগ্রেস মন্ত্রি করছেন তাঁহারা বহু কোটি টাকা কতি বীকর করেও মাদকতা নিবারণ চানু করেছেন। স্বাস্থ্য, ব্যাপ্তপ্ৰদেপ, বোম্বাই, উড়িষ্যা, বিহার প্রভৃতিতে মাদক নিবারণ কার্য পূর্ণেদগ্গে নুন্ন হয়েচে। অতি অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে তাহারা মাদকতা নিবারণে বহুপরিবর। আবগারী কর্মচারীদের উপর কড়া আদেশ জারী করা হয়েছে এই বলে যে যারা আইন ভঙ্গ করবে তাদের খুঁজে বের করতে হবে, এবং এ সময়ে নিবারণী নুতন করে প্রস্তত করা হয়েছে। এ-ছাড়া সবকারের দ্বারা Anti-drink Society গঠন করা হয়েছে। ম্যাজিক-সন্ঠনের সাহায্যে মাদক দ্রব্যের অপকাষিতা বুঝাইবার বন্দোবস্ত করা হয়েছে এবং আরও করা হয়েছে যে, যে সমস্ত কর্মচারী পান-বিলাসী তাদের অপসারণ করা হবে। বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্ট কি মনে করেন না যে "মাদক নিবারণ" সফল হইলে সেই সমস্ত প্রদেশের অধিবাসীদের নৈতিক ও আর্থিক সুবিধা হবে, এবং ভবিষ্যতে এই উন্নতির অংশ সেখানকার গভর্ণমেন্ট লাভ করবেন? আজ বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের প্রতিক্ষিমামান মনোভাব ও অনুরূপশিতাব ফলে বাংলার যে সপুনাশ সাধন হয়েছে ও হচ্ছে তা ইতিহাসের অমলত অক্ষরে লেখা থাকবে। বাংলার মন্ত্রিগলী তার কি জবাব দিবেন? মাঝে মাঝে বলা হয় যে "মাদকতা নিবারণ" আন্দোলন সফল হওয়া অসম্ভব। দৃষ্টান্তরূপ দেওয়া হয় আমেরিকার prohibition আন্দোলনের ব্যর্থতা। বীহাবা এ কথা বলেন তাঁহারা এদেশের জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে আমেরিকার জনসাধারণের পার্থক্য বুঝিতে সক্ষম নহেন। আমেরিকার অধিবাসীরা প্রকৃতিগত মনোবৈরাহ্য হতে পারেন, কিন্তু এখানকার জনসাধারণের প্রকৃতিগত অবস্থা অন্যরূপ। এছাড়া আমেরিকার সরকারী কর্মচারী ইহা পও করিয়া দিবার জন্য বিশেষ করিয়া ঘড়য়ে লিপ্ত ছিলেন। আশা করা যায় এবং আশা করা অনায়া হইবে না যে আমাদের দেশের কর্মচারীরা আমেরিকার কর্মচারীদের বহন নহেন। আজ মন্ত্রিগলী সম্পূর্ণ prohibition আন্দোলন শুরু করিলে প্রবল জনমত তাঁহাদের অনকুল থাকিবে। গভর্ণমেন্ট তাঁহার মানসিক শিথিলতা ত্যাগ করিয়া, দৃঢ়সঙ্কল্প হইয়া, দেশের প্রকৃত কল্যাণের জন্য জনহিতকর কার্যে আগ্রহ হউন। কংগ্রেস যেখানে মাদকতা নিবারণের চেষ্টা করিতেছেন, সেখানে তাঁহাদের বিস্তর বাধা বিপত্তির ভিতর দিয়া অগ্রসর হতে হইয়াছে। এত অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে যেটুকু কাজ করিয়াছেন তাহাতেই তাঁহারা সফলকাম হইয়াছেন। Rev. E. Gordon এর লিখিত "Thoughts on total prohibition" পাঠেই তাহা জানিতে পারা যায়। পরিশেষে রাজস্ব কতির লোহাই দিয়া পরিদ্রব আর্থিক ও নৈতিক উন্নতির পথ বন্ধ করা কোন কল্যাণকারী জাতীয় সরকারের উচিত নহে। বহায়া গান্ধী তাই বলিয়াছেন, "Excise revenues must be sacrificed without delay and without hesitation. No thought at the loss of revenue should interfere with the progress of this country." বাংলার লীগ মন্ত্রিগলীর এইভাবে সাড়া পাওয়া যাইবে কি? যদি সাড়া না পাওয়া যায় তবে বুঝিতে হইবে যে বাঙ্গালীর আরও বুদ্ধি বনাইয়া আসিতেছে। আরি এই হাউসের সভাপনকে অনুরোধ করি যে তাঁহারা যেন আমার ছাঁটাই পুস্তাব প্রদান করিয়া এই সরকারী মনোভাবের প্রকৃত জবাব দিল।

Mr. NISHAPATI MAJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 38,17,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to abolish *pachai* shops in the district of Birbhum.

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, আবগারী বিভাগে যে মোট ৩৮ লক্ষ ১৭ হাজার টাকা ধরা হয়েছে আরি ৪০ নং প্রস্তাবে তা হতে ১০০ টাকা ছাঁটাই লবী করছি।

আমি বীরভূম জেলা হতে পচাই বন্দের দোকান উচ্ছেদ করার জন্য কংগ্রেস আবেদন করেছি কিন্তু কোন ফল হয় নাই। বীরভূম জেলায় মোট ২৫০টা পচাই বন্দের দোকান রয়েছে, সেগুলি উঠিয়ে দেবার জন্য আমি পুনরায় অনুরোধ করছি। এবং আরও অনুরোধ করছি যে যত, তাড়ি তৈরী করার জন্য যে license দেওয়া হয় সে license বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হোক, যাতে দেশের মধ্যে কোন মদ, তাড়ি তৈরী হতে না পারে। আজ দেশে বাসাবসা এবং অন্যান্য উপকরণের অভাব, সে দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে যাতে আর সেগুলি নষ্ট না হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। আজ এ কথা বোধহয় সকলেই জানেন যে বীরভূম জেলায় ডোর, মুচি, বেগুন, পাঁড়োল, বাগুড়, বোঁড়া প্রভৃতি জাতের সকলে পচাই মদ খেতে অভ্যস্ত। অনেক দিন হতে এই জেলার পচাই বন্দের দোকান চলে আসছে বলে সেখানে ৬ বৎসর হতে ৮০ বৎসর পর্যন্ত বয়স সকল নরনারীই পচাই মদ খেতে থাকে। এই কারণে তাদের আর্থিক, নৈতিক ও লৈহিক অবস্থা ভয়াবহ হয়ে উঠেছে। স্বাস্থ্যকালকার দিনেও তাদের শিকার কোন আগ্রহ নাই বললেই চলে। তাদের শিকার বেন কোন বন নাই, তাহা সকলেই যেন এ বিষয়ে উপাশীন হয়ে রয়েছে।

একদিন বহাণা পানী বলেছিলেন, “এই লক্ষ লক্ষ নরনারীই তবিষ্যৎ গভর্নমেন্টের জন্য; তাদের এমনভাবে অভিশপ্ত জীবনের মধ্যে কেলে রাখলে চলবে না।” বঙ্গীয় গভর্নমেন্ট আর-ব্যবের কথা না তুলে বদকে বর্জন করে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করতেন। সেখানে বিগত বৎসরে ৪৮১ জেলার মদ বজন করে দিয়েছেন, এবংসবেরও কয়েকটা জেলার মদ নিরূপণ করেছেন। কিন্তু লক্ষজার কথা যে বাঙ্গালা দেশে ১৯৩৬ সালে আবগারীর আয় ছিল ১০ লক্ষ টাকা আর আজ তা হয়েছে ২৪ লক্ষ টাকা। যদিও আজ এই দেশে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক এক মুঠা চাউল না পেয়ে তিলে তিলে মরছে, তবু এখন পর্যন্ত এই দুখীরা চাউল নষ্ট করে পচাই মদ তৈরী হচ্ছে। হিসাব করলে দেখা যাবে যে ১৯৪২ সালে ২৩৪,৭২৫ বণ চাউল পচাই মদ তৈরী করে নষ্ট হয়েছে, আর ১৯৪৩ সালে ২৪৩,৯৯০ বণ চাউল নষ্ট হয়েছে।

অনেকদিন চেষ্টে পচাই মদ চলে আসছে বলে অনেকের ধারণা যে এটা একটা ঝাড়াবিশেষ এবং ছোট-লোকদের এটা না খেলে চলে না। এই প্রকারের সেকলে মনোভাবের জন্য এবং নানারকম ভুলনীতির কারণে মনোভাবের দরুণ দেশে এক শ্রেণীর লোক এই প্রকার হীন অবস্থার পড়ে রয়েছে। যদি আজও আমরা এদিকে দৃষ্টি না দিই, যদি আজও দেশে মদ বর্জনএর ব্যবস্থা না হয়, যদি আজও আমরা এই সকল কুশুখা উচ্ছেদে বঙ্গপরিকর না হই, তাহলে দেশের সত্যিকারের কোন কার্যকে সার্থক করে তুলতে পারব না।

অতীতে মানবতাকে লান্ধা করে অসুখা রেখে তিলে তিলে মেরেছে, আজও তাদের পিছনে ফেলে রাখবার ব্যবস্থা করছে। আর একদিকে কতিপয় সুবিধাবাদী ওপশীল নামধারী লোক তাদের বিবোধিতা করে নিজেদের সুখ সুবিধা অর্জন করবার চেষ্টা করছেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি বলতে চাই যারা দেশের এই দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে মদ খাইয়ে ফেলে রাখতে চান যাতে তাদের মস্তিষ্ক বিকৃত হয়ে যেতে পারে, তাদের পক্ষে এটা খুবই লজ্জা ও কলঙ্কের কথা। তাই অবিলম্বে পচাই মদের শোধানগুলি তুলে দেওয়া প্রয়োজন। পচাই মদ তৈরী করতে নানারকম বাকলের প্রয়োজন হয় এবং এই মদ খেলে মানুষের মাথা ঝাঝ হয়ে উঠে, বিবেক বৃদ্ধি লোপ পায়। তাই দেশে ফৌজদারী নামলা দিন দিন বেড়ে চলছে, তাদের স্বভাবও কল্যাণ হয়ে পড়ছে এবং আদিক অবস্থা অবনতিব দিকে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে। এই পরিঘর্ষের সকল সভাই আশা করি এটা অবগত আছেন।

আমি অনেক সেবাকার্য্য করে দেশে সবকারী ও বেসবকারী বহু প্রতিষ্ঠানের সহিত সংশ্লিষ্ট থেকে এই সব দরিদ্র লোকদের সঙ্গে বিশেষ যুগ্মচিৎ যে বাংলায় এই পচাই মদের শোধান দেশের নৈতিক অবনতির একটি বড় কারণ।

মিঃ শ্রীকার, ভারত সরকার যেমন অন্যান্য জিনিষের প্রতি নজর দেন তেমনি এ বিষয়েও তাদের দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিত।

আজ মাদ্রাজ সরকার এ সম্বন্ধে যা করছেন তার জন্য তাদের প্রশংসা করতে হয়। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট এখনও যদি পচাই মদের শোধান তুলে না দেন, যদি মদ পান বর্জনে বঙ্গপরিকর না হন, এবং যদি বীরভূমে ২৫৩টা পচাই মদের শোধান তুলে দেবার জন্য মাত্র ৩ লক্ষ টাকা ক্ষতি করতে না চান, তাহলে সত্যি বড় দুঃখের বিষয় হবে। লোকের যে ক্ষতি হচ্ছে তার তুলনায় ৩ লক্ষ টাকা কিছুই নয়। তাই আমি অনুরোধ করছি বীরভূম হতে পচাই মদের শোধানগুলি তুলে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা হোক।

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, বাংলা সরকারের Excise policy সম্বন্ধে আমার পূর্ণ বস্তী বক্তব্য যা বলে দিয়েছেন তার পরে একটি যাত্র উপহার আমি আপনাদের সামনে পেশ করব, তাহলেই মাননীয় মহাশয় ব্যাপারটি ভালভাবে বুঝতে পারবেন। হগলী জেলার শ্রীমদপুর সাবডিভিসনে বোহনবাটী গ্রামে একটি পচাই মদের শোধান আছে। সেখানকার স্থানীয় লোক বিশেষ করে Scheduled Casteএর লোকেরা সেই শোকাণে যাতায়াত করে। স্থানীয় লোকেরা ঐ শোকাণ উঠিয়ে দেবার জন্য অনেক চেষ্টা করেছে। চেষ্টা শুরু হয়েছিল ১৯৪৬ সালের ৪ঠা মার্চ তারিখে অনেক চিঠি লেখালেখির পর। ৬ই আগষ্ট ১৯৪৬ তারিখে Additional Collector recommend করেছিলেন ঐ স্থান থেকে পচাই মদের শোকাণ উঠিয়ে দেওয়া জন্য এবং ঐ recommendation letter Licensing Boardএ পাঠিয়েও দিয়েছিলেন। ১৬ই জানুয়ারী ১৯৪৭ তারিখে S. D. O. Licensing Boardএর আবার লিখলেন এবং জানিয়ে দিলেন যে ঐ পচাই মদের শোকাণ উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হবে। সেটা ছিল ১৬ই জানুয়ারী ১৯৪৭ তারিখ আর আজকে হচ্ছে ১৮ই মার্চ ১৯৪৭ তারিখ। এর মধ্যে কোন কিছুই করা হয় নাই এবং ঐ পচাই মদের শোকাণ সুখ-দারীতে, স্বচ্ছন্দচিত্তে এবং বায়ালভাবিতে আজও বিরাডমান। এ সম্বন্ধে বহু চিঠি লেখালেখি হয়েছে, আজও

আবার কয়েক ২৩ বারি চিঠি লিখেছে। কংগ্রেস পার্টির চিফ হুইপ এবং লীগ পার্টির চিফ হুইপ এ সা District Magistrateকে লিখেছেন, কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত ঐ পচাই বন্দের লোকান সরাসরি কোন ব্যবস্থা হোল না। বরী বহাশর যদি দেখতে চান আবি তাঁকে এই চিঠির কয়েক লিখা দেখাতে পারি তাহলে তিনি এবিষয় বিশেষভাবে জ্ঞাত হতে পারবেন। বাংলার সব পচাই বন্দের লোকান তিনি উঠিয়ে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করে ভাল কথা কিন্তু আবি তাঁকে হগলী জেলার বোহনবাটা গ্রামের পচাই বন্দের লোকানটা উঠিয়ে দেবার ব্যবস্থা বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করছি।

Mr. NARENDRA SINGH SINCHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the motion standing in the name of my honourable friend Mr. Debendra Nath Sen I would like to request the Government to view the problem of prohibition in a more comprehensive way than hitherto and to draw their attention to the necessity of adopting positive measures as to make prohibition really effective. I take it for granted that prohibition is not only the declared policy but the actual intention of this Government; and I further accept that they have the goal of total prohibition throughout the province as the ultimate objective of their policy. The only question that arises in the background of this laudable objective is whether the measures so far adopted to enforce prohibition have been really effective and have yielded the results expected. It is however rather strange and somewhat funny to find a Government swearing by prohibition, lamenting over the loss of excise revenue due to the closure of liquor shops in disturbed areas. This, I need hardly add, Sir, is not the manner in which the Government can make its prohibition policy effective in practice. The entire problem of prohibition is ultimately a problem of mental, moral, and to a great extent, even of physical, rehabilitation of those sections of the community, who are addicted to alcoholism, or to other forms of intoxicating drinks and drugs. The Government is therefore called upon to take some positive constructive measure which could gradually wean away persons addicted to drink habit from that abominable addiction by directing their minds to healthier and more innocent types of pleasures. The mere closing of liquor shops in certain selected areas is at best a negative measure, and creates more problems in its wake than it serves to solve. The closing of liquor shops in one or two areas does not of itself kill the drink habit. Drink addicts find out other avenues for the satisfaction of their cravings; and large-scale smuggling and boot-legging ensues as a matter of course, with its inevitable sequel of rise in crime statistics and a greater strain on public morality. The dangerous likelihood of such deleterious effect following prohibition is all the greater when prohibition is conceived in entirely negative terms, and is hesitant, partial and incomplete. I would therefore like to take this opportunity of placing before the Government certain concrete and constructive proposals for making prohibition practically effective by supplementing its present hesitantly negative policy by a positive rehabilitative programme. As a first step towards enforcing prohibition the Government should, I think, declare a time-target, say three years, by which they would enforce total prohibition throughout the province. They should simultaneously with the fixing of this time-target take over all kinds of liquor and excise shops in the province under their own management instead of leaving these out to private vendors as at present. Under the present system the private vendors are prompted to increase the sale of wines and spirits and other intoxicating agents for their own gain. This must be put a stop to without delay. If the Government take over the management of these shops they could easily bring down consumption of wines, etc., by gradually restricting the sale of these stuff to a continually diminishing quota for each shop, and for each person, month by month. This would not be a very difficult matter as in 3 years' time we would get 36 months for gradually stepping down the consumption of alcohol by drink-addicts. The advice of a board of medical experts may with advantage be acted upon in this respect and they should be entrusted with the preparation of a scheme or schedule as to how consumption of

alcohol by individual addicts may be brought down without any harmful effect to their health. The Government could also with great advantage encourage the opening of tea and coffee shops in the neighbourhood of wine-shops and induce people by the offer of cheap and wholesome non-intoxicating drinks to give up the alcohol habit. It might seem that tea or coffee would be a poor and a ridiculously weak substitute for wine. But I can speak from my own observation as an industrial employer that the extent of alcoholism among workers has in many areas been successfully brought down by the removing of wine-shops from the vicinity of working class quarters, by the forced curtailment of consumption, and by encouraging the starting of tea shops nearby in their stead. If necessary, the Tea and Coffee Marketing Expansion Boards might be invited to give their co-operation in the matter. Ways and means should also be found out for providing the drink-addicts with other kinds of healthy recreation through the Cinema and Games. Industrial employers and municipalities should be invited to co-operate in these matters. If the Government proceed on these lines prohibition would no longer remain in the status of a desideratum but would soon prove to be a realised goal.

But I am afraid, Sir, the way in which the Government is proceeding is not the way of enforcing prohibition. They seem to have a guilty conscience in the matter. A policy of prohibition fits with an ill grace on a spendthrift and bankrupt Government dependent on the large income from excise revenue which they can ill afford to lose. Yet the pressure of public opinion for prohibition is too strong so as not to allow the Government to say a decided "no" to prohibition. This explains their present hesitant and dilatory policy. But they should remember that a comprehensive rehabilitatory programme on the lines I have just suggested combined with a bold policy for enforcing total prohibition throughout the province would in its ultimate effect redound to the benefit of the provincial exchequer also, by increasing the productive efficiency and taxable capacity of the large masses of men, on whose moral and physical ruin the present excise income is based. If the Government cannot sacrifice their revenues lightly, they should also seriously ponder if they can batten on the ruinous sacrifice of the province's human resources through alcoholism and through intoxicating drugs.

With these words, Sir, I commend the motion of my friend for acceptance by the House.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the Government's policy of prohibition and I shall make certain observations. Prohibition is a universal cry from all quarters and it is a settled point of Government but the action and achievement of the Government towards this direction is very slow and unsatisfactory.

Sir, during these 10 long years of so-called autonomous Government prohibition could be extended only to four districts. This time it has been extended to the district of Bakarganj and I do not think that the honourable members from that district shall thank the Hon'ble Excise Minister for the extension of prohibition to that district. The consumption of drugs and liquor in that district so far as I know is less than any other district. The Hon'ble Minister has left aside other areas of bigger consumption from his consideration and I tell the Hon'ble Minister that the cooling green coconut water in the district of Bakarganj is sufficient enough to cool down and sober down the members and inhabitants of that district and keep them far away from the bounds of intemperance.

Sir, the Government ought to have made a comprehensive survey and have complete statistics of the total consumption of all varieties of liquors and drugs before they could think of prohibition. Without having a complete survey and complete statistics of total consumption the scheme would be ineffective. Without a survey and without a well-defined plan of

this prohibition no achievement is possible. If there was a survey and the Government policy was taken up after that survey and after a well-defined plan, then I think the country would have been dry, the entire province would have been dry by this time.

Sir, we admit that total prohibition is not possible at once. It can be achieved by graduated degrees. Here I shall make some suggestions for the Government. The number of liquor shops, both foreign and country should be cut down to its minimum. Licences for country liquor both for consumption and preparation should be cut down to its minimum and opium should be allowed to addicts only on the system of cards and coupons. Liquor shops of this city of Calcutta as well as of other big towns and big industrial areas after their curtailment should be removed from the heart of the city and town to their outskirts.

Sir, the preparation of *pachai* and *haria* and other country liquor is responsible for the evil in two ways. It consumes the hard-earned wages of the labouring classes and make them poorer day by day and there is another side to look to, that is, in these days of dearth of rice, a good deal of rice has been wasted in preparing these sorts of country liquor only for the consumption of the hard-earned money of the labouring classes. I would request Government to put a stop to this preparation of country liquor and to put a stop to its commercial preparation.

Sir, it is deplorable to note that this vice of drink is not only prevalent among the labouring classes but as is known in this House this vice has unfortunately made its way among the younger generations of our country, particularly the student community. Government must have strict vigilance upon this point and should see that the future generations of our country should not be allowed to be demoralised and to go to the wrong ways. In this respect my suggestion to the Government would be that Government should put an age-limit at the age of 25 and any one indulging in drinking below that age should be adequately dealt with and punished. Legislation for that should be brought in making provision for dealing with these delinquents adequately and with punishments. It should be treated as a criminal offence and particularly should be provided with the punishment of whipping of juvenile offenders.

Sir, in conclusion, before I sit down, I want a clarification from the Hon'ble Minister on one point. In his Budget statement he repeatedly and with regret pointed out that during the riot disturbances for a short time there was a loss of revenue of about 50 lakhs under the head "Excise". Now, this anxiety of the Government for revenues from this source and the desire for prohibition seems to be in conflict. Sir, if one is to be achieved, the other should be given a go-by; there cannot be both at the same time. I would ask the Government to look into the humble suggestions that I have made and try to bring in legislation as suggested.

MR. P. E. C. W. PARISH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his budget statement the Hon'ble the Finance Minister was at pains to explain that the loss of revenue which will result from the introduction of prohibition into the district of Bakarganj will be counter-balanced by enhanced licence fees on imported foreign liquor.

Now, Sir, this question of Prohibition has been argued for and against for many years and the arguments produced on both sides are wearing a little thin. But in our opinion, Sir, so far as Bengal is concerned the cry for Prohibition is a political cry and a very unreal political cry at that.

Let us face the facts. Bengal has had a succession of deficit budgets and has no reserve funds. The province simply cannot afford to lose the revenue amounting to the very considerable sum of nearly Rs. 6 crores on an experiment of this kind. The Governments of Bombay, Madras and the

United Provinces have announced their plans for the introduction of Prohibition on an extensive scale; but these provinces had surplus budgets during the war years and were able to build up large reserve funds. They are in a position to experiment; Bengal is not.

For, Sir, the introduction of Prohibition is an experiment—there is no doubt of that. We have still in our minds the failure of the experiment in the United States of America where as soon as Prohibition was introduced consumption increased enormously. Smuggling, racketeering and illicit distilling flourished to such an extent that eventually the effect on public opinion in America was such that the Constitution was changed by the repeal of the Johnson Act.

Do honourable members really believe that Prohibition can be properly enforced in Bengal? The size of the province, the lack of communications and the ease with which illicit liquor can be produced make enforcement impossible unless Government are prepared to increase the cost of the Preventive Services to an enormous figure. Even then we believe that the only result will be that the traffic in liquor will be driven underground. The province will lose nearly Rs. 6 crores of revenue and in addition will have to pay for a huge preventive staff—a loss and expenditure which the province can ill afford at present and be faced at the same time with an increase in crime.

If the Government do decide to continue with their present policy of the introduction of Prohibition into the province by degrees where is the loss of revenue to be made up? Are they prepared to treble the rate of Sales Tax? If so, does the Hon'ble Minister believe that trade in Bengal would bear this drastic increase? We believe that such an increase would only have the effect of driving trade away from Bengal. We can see no alternative source of revenue for it is quite certain that imported foreign liquor will not bear any further increases—in fact the point of diminishing returns may already have been reached.

Sir, the fact is that if people want to drink they will drink. Legislation will not stop them. Education on the right lines might do so. We believe that the policy of maximum revenue with minimum consumption is sound. If Government continue this policy by strict licensing regulations and suppression of illicit distillation and at the same time encourage a real temperance movement providing facilities for workers for recreation and education then we believe that the same goal as is sought for in Prohibition may be reached more quickly and with less evil results.

Sir, I oppose the motion for reduction.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to say something with regard to the nature of the policy that has been adopted by Government and its failure to prevent the corruption that is rampant in the Excise Department. In the budget estimate we find that Government gets an excise revenue of Rs. 5,70,86,000 whereas the total expenditure is Rs. 38,31,000. The total margin is Rs. 5,32,55,000, whereas Government spends for Superintendence only Rs. 3,73,000.

Now, Sir, the main cause of this corruption is the low scale of pay of excise officers. Government appoints graduate Sub-Inspectors on a pay of Rs. 80 to Rs. 120. When a Sub-Inspector becomes old he gets Rs. 120. It is very difficult for him to maintain his family, give education to his children, to bear the expenses of the marriage ceremonies of his children. So, Sir, he is prompted to take bribe from excise shops. The House will be surprised to learn that an excise sub-inspector gets Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per month as extra remuneration. A petty officer is appointed on a pay of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. With this pay of Rs. 20 it is quite impossible for him to maintain his family. So he has to take out income. An excise peon gets Rs. 100 as out income. Now the question is how to remedy this. The only remedy that I can suggest is to increase their pay, so that if they get

a greater amount of pay they will not be prompted to take any bribe. It is evident from the fact that when an honest and strict officer is appointed at the head of the department, we find that the excise revenue automatically increases. The Excise Minister will do well to compare Bengal with other provinces in this connection. My earnest request to the Hon'ble Minister is that he will increase the scales of pay.

There is another thing regarding settlement of excise shop. A large amount of money is paid to the authorities who settle the shops. It is proper that Government should initiate certain principle on which shops should be settled, so that the authorities will not be able to take money by settling shops.

Then, Sir, there is another thing. In settlement of shops to the heirs of deceased vendors there is a circular by Mr. G. P. Hogg which provides that a candidate, heir of deceased vendor, must fulfil three conditions. He must be a near relative of the vendor. He must have helped the vendor during his life time. The vendor must have a good record. We find, Sir, that a man who had been conducting a shop for the last 30 or 40 years, might have certain irregularities, but the department does not drive him out. As soon as he dies his heir is disqualified because the vendor had certain irregularities.

There is another thing. You take a new man. You give a shop to a candidate who is entirely a new man and has no experience in the business, but when you try to give it to the heir of the vendor you will say "you must have experience". Though he has got some experience still he is deprived of a licensed shop.

In this way, Sir, these are the things which make provision for taking bribes for higher authorities. So I hope the Excise Minister will consider all these facts. (Applause.)

MR. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, today I see a strange phenomenon. The phenomenon is that the votaries of Patro, the votaries of Chakro, the votaries of Shomrasha, the votaries of Sudha Sindhu, the votaries of Mrita Sanjibani are advocating Prohibition (cries of "hear," "hear"). Well, it is from the Hindu mythology, of course, but it is truth, Sir, if you really want Prohibition you must prepare your people for it. No amount of Prohibition, no amount of Government order, no amount of removal of pachwa shops, of liquor shops or any shop will bring about Prohibition. Well, in India they are used পিতা পিতা পুত্র: পিতা যাবৎ না ভূতপে পতিত।—

In Mecca before the advent of our Holy Prophet Mohammad, they were used to পিতা পিতা পুত্র: পিতা যাবৎ না ভূতপে পতিত। Rivers of liquor, rivers of wine used to flow in the streets of Mecca and every one used to drink and drink hard (laughter and noise); nobody seems to understand the true implication. Such was the state of things. The whole Arabian country was impoverished and disorganised and gambling and drinking was the lot of every Arab. Then an order came from the high that wine was *haram* (forbidden). From that day drinking of wine ceased. The country became absolutely dry. You will not find a single country on the face of the earth where liquor is not available except in Arabia, where Prophet Mohammad was born. So my opinion is this and I say with all the emphasis that I command that if you really want Prohibition, if you really want that your people should not drink, then you must prepare your people, you must organise your people and discipline them in such a way that they may not drink a single drop of wine. In other words, you must obey the injunctions of the Quoran, you must obey the behest of the Quoran and accept the principles of Islam: The acceptance of the principles of Islam is the only remedy (cries of "hear," "hear") and I say with all the emphasis that this is the only way of making the country free from drunkards. That is what I advocate and I preach, if I am a preacher at all (Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: you are a great preacher).

Please do not interrupt me in this way; if you will interrupt me I shall not be able to finish my speech. Well that is what I have to say as regards Prohibition. Then, Sir, as regards Prohibition, my friend Mr. Nishapati Maji.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mudassir Hossain, your time is over.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Shall I sit down, or may I have five minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. Please resume your seat.

Mr. HARAN CHANDRA BARMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few words for the Scheduled Castes of Bengal and draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister in charge. As far as I know, Sir, Communal Ratio is not observed and maintained for the Scheduled Castes in the selection of the excise shop vendors for the rural and urban areas as well as new appointments and promotions in services, and as such the Scheduled Castes of Bengal are not getting any chance in the Excise Department. Most of the high officials belong to the so-called Caste Hindus who generally ignore the Scheduled Caste interests and rights and they do not like to see the good of the Scheduled Castes at all. I had some practical and bitter experience regarding this matter. So, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Excise Department to look into the matter very earnestly and make up to date statistics of the same for every district in Bengal of the Scheduled Caste Excise shop vendors and Scheduled Caste employees too and try to maintain the Communal Ratio in services and complete the Scheduled Caste quota by new appointments and promotion in services and selection of new excise shop vendors in rural and urban areas for both the country and foreign liquor shops. Sir, I wish to put another point to the Bengal Government. The Excise duty of the Central Government on the betel nuts in Bengal should be removed and necessary action might be taken by the present Bengal Government. The Central Excise duty has been imposed specially on the Scheduled Castes of Bengal who generally pay a very big and heavy amount of Excise duty on betel nuts. For an instance I may here mention, Sir, that the Scheduled Caste people of Haimchar in the district of Tippera pay Rs. 75,000 as Central Excise duty for betelnuts to the Central Government. So, Sir, I think and hope that the Hon'ble Minister will contact the Central Government to recover this duty and relieve the Scheduled Castes of Bengal to some extent from the burden of the Central Excise duty. With the above observations I support the present Excise Budget of the Bengal Government.

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ১৯৪৭ সালের এমনি দিনে যদি চিন্তা করতে হয়, আমাদের বাংলা সরকারকে যদি ত্যাগিত হতে হয় যে আগামী ডিপার্টমেন্ট যেভাবে সমাজের মধ্যে ব্যক্তিগত চালিয়ে নেবে তার ফল সমাজের সৈন্যবিন জীবন ভেঙ্গে পড়বে, তা হ'লে আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্যই বলতে হবে। আজ তাদের মনে করা উচিত, এই ওপার থেকে স্বাধীনতা ধরা একই একটুকুর ভাষার শিক থেকে ছুটে আসছে, সেখানে আমরা আপাতত স্বাধীনতা নিয়ে বাঁচতে। কিন্তু স্বাধীনতা নিয়ে বাঁচতে গেলে সর্বপ্রথম তার প্রয়োজন হবে নৈতিক চরিত্র। নৈতিক বলে বলবান যদি তাদের না করা যায়, তাহলে দেশের ভবিষ্যৎ অত্যন্ত অন্ধকার। আর বড় পরিতাপের বিষয় আমাদের সরকার যে বিষয়ে সম্পূর্ণরূপে উল্টান। অথবা তাঁরা বলছেন চোটা করছি। কিন্তু তাঁদের যে চোটা, আমরা মনে হয়, তা খুঁটা ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। গত ১৯৩৫ সন থেকে এই '৪৭ সন এই ক্ষয় বংশের হিসাব বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে কি বোঝা যায়? তাদের চোটা বলতে কিছু তাঁরা অস্বীকার করেন নাই। তাঁদের কোন plan এর বড় বড় গুলি রয়েছে। কিন্তু সেটাকে বহু করে সেওয়ার কোন বকম ইচ্ছা তাঁদের আছে বলে মনে হয় না। কিন্তু সরকারের মনে করা উচিত বিশেষ করে আমাদের মুসলীম লীগ Ministryর তাদের কোরান হাদিস সর্বকণ এই কথা বলে 'তোমাদের জন্য ঐ সবকিছু দয়া হাজার' কিন্তু তাঁরা হয়ত এই ক্রমবর্ধমান তত্ত্ব মূলবান নাই, বাংলার হিন্দু আছে। তাঁদের কণ্ঠে কণ্ঠ মিলিয়ে আমিও বলি বাংলা তত্ত্ব মূলবানকেও নয়, বাংলা তত্ত্ব হিন্দুও নয়, হিন্দু-মুসলমানের মিলিত বাতুনি এই বাংলা। তাঁদের দৃষ্টি শুধুকে মূলবান করে—তত্ত্ব মূলবান বিচারের দিকে। এই কংগ্রেস দানিত শ্রমণে সেই সব জিনিষ এর মধ্যেই really

কেন গিয়েছে। কিন্তু আমাদের মূল্যবান দীর্ঘ বহিঃসীমী দেখিকে একেবারেই উপলব্ধ। সেজন্য আমি তাঁকে account করছি এবং বলছি আপনারদের আজ দেশের নৈতিক চরিত্র সম্পূর্ণরূপে বন্ধনের দিতে হবে। যদি বাঁচতে চান, স্বাধীন বাংলা ও স্বাধীন বাঙ্গালীকে যদি বাঁচাতে হয় ও বাঁচতে হয়, তাহলে সর্বপ্রথম আপনারদের কর্তব্য হবে তাদের নৈতিক চরিত্র গঠন করে দেওয়া। যদি নৈতিক বলে আমরা বলিমান না হইত পারি, তবে যে স্বাধীনতা আমরা চাইছি, সেই স্বাধীনতা এখানে এসে কতটুকু কার্যকরী হবে, স্বাধীনতা কিভাবে কতটুকু আমরা গ্রহণ করতে পারবো এবং উপভোগ করতে সক্ষম হবো সে বিষয়ে যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে।

আপনারা সকলে জানেন এমন সময় ছিল যখন কয়েকটি class লোকের মধ্যে এই জিনিষটি বিশেষভাবে লীমাবদ্ধ ছিল। কিন্তু যুদ্ধ আসার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বস্তুটা এমনভাবে ছড়িয়ে গিয়েছে আমাদের দেশের মধ্যে যে এখনকার মত ঝগড়াটা হয়েছে একটা fashion হিন্দু, বলুন, মুসলমান বলুন গার্ডমেন্ট সৈন্যকে সাহায্য করেছে বলেই সেটা fashion এ পরিণত হয়েছে। অবশ্য একথা ঠিক যে আজ আর লোকের বিচার নাই, ধনী দরিদ্র, হোট বড়কোন বিচার নাই। সব শ্রেণীর মধ্যে দেখা যায় মত ঝগড়াটা মতবুদ একটা দেশা ও দেশা হয়ে লাড়িয়েছে। এতে দেশের ভবিষ্যৎ অতীত অন্ধকার বলেই মনে হয়। ইমত সরকার একথা বলতে পারেন যে এটার দ্বারা Revenue আয় হয়। আমি বলি যে জিনিষ মানুষের নৈতিক চরিত্রের উপর আঘাত দিতে পারে তার ক্ষেত্রে উপর কোন দেশের উন্নতিশীলক বা হিতকর কোন কাজ হতে পারে না। কিন্তু ইউরোপীয়ান বিশেষায়নের থেকে আপনারা সাহায্য পাবেন, পাওয়াও কথা। কাবণ মন্দের ভিতর মন্দের ভণ্ড, মত মন্দের সর্গু তাদের পক্ষ থেকে সহযোগিতা পাওয়া সম্পূর্ণ ব্যাভাবিক। কিন্তু আপনারা জানবেন যে হিন্দুই বলুন, মুসলমানই বলুন, কোন ধার্মিক ব্যক্তিই আপনারদের এই জিনিষটি support করতে পারে না। তাই আমি বলছি বিশেষভাবে বাংলার ভবিষ্যৎকর কথা চিন্তা করে—আসুন স্বাধীনতার কথা চিন্তা করে—যে আজ বাংলাকে ১৯৩৫ সালের বাংলা বলে চিন্তা করবেন না। সর্গু মত আপনারদের মনে রাখা উচিত আজকের বাংলা ১৯৪৭ সালের বাংলা, ৪৮ সনও আগতপুণ্য। এর মধ্যেই বাংলার প্রত্যেক মানুষকে বাঙ্গালী করে সাজিয়ে দিতে হবে—প্রত্যেককে সাজাতে হবে স্বাধীনতা গৃহণ করবার জন্য—যেন তারা স্বাধীনতার সম্পূর্ণ উপযোগী হয়। কিন্তু যেভাবে ব্যক্তিগত চলেছে প্রত্যেক সমাজের মধ্যে কেউ কেউ বদলেছেন, যুবকদের মধ্যে, আমি বলি যুবক-বৃদ্ধ বলে সেখানে কোন জিনিষ নাই, সে বাংলাই উঠে গেছে। সমাজ আজ এমনই স্থির উঠে গেছে যে মত না বেঁচে পারলে মোটেই ভাল লাগে না। কারও নাম আমি বলবো না। ধনী দরিদ্র থেকে আসব করে সমাজের অন্যান্য ক্ষেত্রে যেখানে যান, রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে যান, যে কোন ক্ষেত্রেই যান, সবখানেই ওটা পাবেন।

Mr. MIR AHAMMAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি এ-সময়ে দু' চাপটা কথা বলেই শেষ করবো। এ-সময়ে অনেক অনেক কথা বলেছেন। এই মত—এই সবার জিনিষটা মুসলমানদের পক্ষে হবার। সত্য ভগবতের সর্গু আজ এই মত ঝগড়াটা আছে আছে উঠিয়ে পড়েছে। আমাদের এই গার্ডমেন্টের নীতি এই যে, এই মন্দের income এর দ্বারা তারা দেশের জনসাধারণের ভাল কাজ করেন। কিন্তু আমি বলি গার্ডমেন্ট যেভাবে income করতে চাচ্ছেন সেই ভিত্তিটাই ধারাপ। আমাদের বাংলাদেশে যে মত তৈরী হচ্ছে সেটা মানুষের স্বাধীনতা চাল নষ্ট করে। আর দেশের সমস্ত লোক অনুভব করে না পেয়ে মরে যাচ্ছে। আমাদের দেশে নানারকম গাছ-পাছড়া পুতুর পরিমাণে জন্মায়—তা থেকে ত গার্ডমেন্ট মত তৈরী করতে পারেন। আজ প্রশ্নবৃত্ত: এই মন্দের দরুনই দেশের লোকের স্বভাবচরিত্র ধারাপ হয়ে যাচ্ছে। মন্দের উত্তেজনার ফলে হিন্দু-মুসলমানের মধ্যে অবৈধ মারামারি হয়ে গেছে—অনেক লোকের অনেক অর্থ ও দুর্দশা হয়েছে। তাই Hon'ble Ministerকে অনুরোধ করছি—তিনি যেন সমস্ত এই মত জিনিষটা দেশ থেকে উঠিয়ে দেন। Foreign Liquor এর যে সমস্ত লোকাল আছে, তা থাকুক। আমার মতে দেশী মন্দের যে লোকাল আছে তা যদি একেবারে বন্ধ না করতে পারেন তাহলে অন্ততঃ পক্ষে ৩৪ অংশ কমিয়ে দেওয়া হোক। বিশেষ করে আমি বাংলার কথা বলবো, বাংলা দেশের প্রত্যেক জেলাতে বিশেষ করে বয়নসিংহ জেলাতে বস্তুটা একদম বন্ধ করা হোক। (A voice—সেখানে আরও বাজান হইতেছে।) যেখানে অনেক লোক চালের অভাবে না পেয়ে মরে যাচ্ছে সেখানে যে চালগুলো মত তৈরী নষ্ট হচ্ছে সেগুলি অন্ততঃ বাঁচাতে পারলে অনেক লোক বেঁচে যার। আমি শেখছি আমার কংগ্রেসী হিন্দু অঙ্গীকার আপত্তি করছেন। আমাদের মুসলমানদের পক্ষে এই মত প্রচলনে সর্বাধিক দুঃপহিত কাজ হবে। তাই অনুরোধ করছি বস্তুটা পাতা যার সেই পরিমাণে বস্তুটা বন্ধ করা হোক।

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I claim your indulgence for four or five minutes while I shall speak on Prohibition from an unusual angle—the historical. These great social measures of reform

have a special interest for women. Knowledge about them may always be helpful and cannot be harmful. Therefore I venture to speak for these few minutes about the experience of Norway. In that country when the weather was too bad for fishing, men had two occupations; drinking and knocking their wives about. The women tolerated this for centuries because they had no choice, and they were a sturdy breed. But there came a day when the hope of deliverance flew towards them on shining wings; in other words the day when they found themselves with the vote. So they put their heads together, worked out a campaign, put pressure on the politicians, and got prohibition established with very little trouble. Having done this they looked at one another in sudden consternation. It had not occurred to them before, but now the men had only one occupation for their spare time, and they had all their time for it. Further the men soon showed that they enjoyed the one occupation left to them with greater keenness because of their resentment against those who had cut them off from the other. Still further, when they settled down to the new conditions, they found that the men had better health and better endurance. Their muscular system was toned up, their eye became clearer, their aim straighter and, to sum up the history of those eventful years, in a single sentence, it is credibly reported not a single stroke missed its target. (Laughter.) The women, therefore, repenting of what they had done, put their heads together again, they worked out a new campaign, they brought coercion to bear on their politicians in the reverse direction, prohibition was soon erased from the statute book, and the women joyfully went back to the *status quo ante*. (Laughter.) That is all my simple story, Sir, and I have no moral to draw from it, but I give it as a historical experience to the Minister in charge of this department who after two years of thinking about it must be wiser enough about prohibition than any of us.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I am in sympathy with the sentiments expressed by a majority of the members who have participated in the debate and by those of the members who have advocated the introduction of Prohibition in the province.

Sir, I remember I told the House last year that Government had adopted the policy of gradual introduction of Prohibition in the province and Government's aim is to have total Prohibition in the province and in implementation of this decision of Government, in the year 1938 the district of Noakhali was made dry. But after the outbreak of war, this province was the base of operation for the eastern theatre of war and, therefore, we had a large number of military personnel in our midst and Government decided that this policy of gradual Prohibition in the province should be stayed for some time. So, during the years 1939 to 1945 there was no Prohibition in the province of Bengal. After we assumed office last year, I decided that we should have Prohibition in the province in gradual stages and, therefore, I made the district of Noakhali dry. This year, in implementation of the same decision of Government, we have made the district of Bakarganj dry. So, in Bengal we have now two districts absolutely dry and there are some areas of the district of Tippera and the district of Chittagong contiguous to Noakhali which are also dry.

Sir, I must point out to the House that the question of introduction of Prohibition bristles with difficulties. Mr. Parish has pointed out that in America this experiment was tried with the result that there was a lot of bootlegging, there was trafficking in illicit liquor, there was distillation of illicit liquor, there was racketeering and, in short, there was some amount of gangsterism in that country. The net result was that instead of getting any benefit from Prohibition in that country, there was lot of other evils which cropped up and, therefore, America had to repeal the Prohibition Act which was introduced at the instance of Pussyfoot Johnson.

By this I do not mean to say that Prohibition is not desirable. What I mean to say is that we cannot have Prohibition all at once or by one

stroke of the pen. We must proceed slowly and cautiously and we must introduce Prohibition in this province gradually, watch its results, watch its repercussions and then go ahead with it. We cannot make the entire province of Bengal absolutely dry. Of course, there is the question of Calcutta which stands on a different footing. As I pointed out some time earlier in reply to a question in this House, Calcutta is a cosmopolitan city and it is really a moot point whether any Government has the right to impose its will on the nationals of other countries. In this city of Calcutta, apart from Bengalees, there are nationals of many other countries. Their religious sentiment is not the same as our own religious sentiment. The Muslims are prohibited from taking any intoxicant but the same does not apply to other nationals and, therefore, it is for serious consideration whether the Government of this province should really interfere with the freedom and liberty enjoyed by nationals of other countries. But that is also a vexed question which should be decided. We should not rush into any decision with regard to this matter.

So far as Prohibition in rural areas is concerned, there is no question that we should aim at total Prohibition throughout Bengal, but we should proceed slowly and cautiously. (Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: In how many decades will it be effected?) We have been in office for only one year and in this one year we have made two districts in this province dry. Last year Noakhali was made dry, this year Bakarganj is going to be made dry and next year we may have two or three districts dry, if not more.

Then Mr. Parish raised one very pertinent issue. He asked whether Government, in view of its financial difficulties, could afford to lose Rs. 6 crores. My answer to that is this that we do not know what the constitutional position would be in June, 1948 which is the deadline set by His Majesty's Government for transfer of power. In Bengal the position is this. As we do not want foreign domination, we do not also want domination by any other Government on us. We want to be independent and if we have independence, we shall not be exploited by England or by Delhi. With all the money that is being taken by the Centre, which I said in reply to the budget debate will be about Rs. 100 crores, we will be financially stable, and if we are financially stable, we can afford to lose this 6 crores of rupees because we shall get a return. The return will not be in money, but the return will be in improved health and happiness of the people of this province. Therefore, this 6 crores of rupees in the interest of the health and happiness of the people we can sacrifice and that will be our dividend.

Mr. Wordsworth narrated a story—I do not know whether it is historical or fictitious—of the people of Norway. He did not give us any moral, but I find a moral in his story. When the women of Norway had Prohibition introduced in the country, the aim, strength and physical well-being of the people improved and the women, because they were afraid of beating from their husbands, scrapped that Act. But the fact remains that as soon as Prohibition was introduced in that country, the health of the people improved though there was domestic trouble. Out of fear or out of a motive to make themselves secure and safe from their husbands' beating, the wives had the Prohibition Act repealed.

Therefore, I say that if we have this aim and objective, viz., the improvement of the physical well-being of the people of this province, then it is our duty to introduce total Prohibition irrespective of the fact that we shall sustain a financial loss. Rs. 6 crores is no consideration. In return for Rs. 6 crores, we shall have the physical—and not only physical but physical and moral—well-being of the people of this province and that is the goal we aim at and, therefore, we must introduce Prohibition. But Mr. Parish should not be afraid. As I have said, we have not reached any final conclusion, we shall not interfere with the liberty and freedom of Mr. Parish and the people of his country. We do not want to enforce our will on anybody. We do not want that we should dominate over anybody. We do not like

to be dominated by anybody either. We want to be free and we want to see everybody free. That is the point and that is the policy which we propose to adopt, but at the same time I should like to make it clear that in future when a new Constitution is evolved after June, 1948, it will be possible for us to speed up and accelerate the introduction of prohibition in this Province, because our financial position will be considerably strengthened and improved in the future set-up.

With these words I oppose all the cut motions for reduction of the main demand and I commend the main motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Debendra Nath Sen that the demand of Rs. 38,17,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division taken with the following results:—

AYES—61.

Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra.
 Sandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
 Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal.
 Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar.
 Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan.
 Bhanderi, Mr. Charu Chandra.
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra.
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath.
 Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada.
 Birsha, Mr. Bir.
 Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra.
 Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra.
 Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra.
 Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal.
 Das, Miss Bina.
 Das, Mr. Brojomadhab.
 Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra.
 Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath.
 Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra.
 Dass, Mr. Kanailal.
 De, Mr. Kanai Lal.
 Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan.
 Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
 Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari.
 Gayen, Mr. Arabinda.
 Ghose, Mr. A. K.
 Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar.
 Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra.
 Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan.
 Halidar, Mr. Kuber Chand.

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
 Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra.
 Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra.
 Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
 Majhi, Mr. Nishapati.
 Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati.
 Mai, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
 Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh.
 Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad.
 Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari.
 Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
 Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
 Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan.
 Murarka, Mr. Basantlal.
 Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath.
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra.
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna.
 Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta.
 Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Roy, Mr. Ram Hari.
 Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna.
 Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath.
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan.
 Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath.
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
 Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra.
 Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh.
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra.

NOES—118.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.
 Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
 Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
 Abdul Haiz, Mr. Mirza.
 Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
 Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরi, Mr. Md.
 Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad.
 Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
 Abdul Hannan, Mr.
 Abdul Karim, Mr.
 Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
 Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M.
 Abdur Rahman Khan (alias Nuru Mia), Mr.
 Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
 Abdur Rashid, Maulana Khondkar.
 Abdur Rauf, Syed.
 Abdur Reza Chowdhury, Mr.
 Abdul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
 Abdul Masud, Mr. Kazi.
 Abdul Quasem, Mr.
 Ahammed Ali, Mr. Mir

Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
 Ahmed Hossain, the Hon'ble Mr.
 Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
 Akbar Ali, Maulvi.
 Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
 Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
 Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.
 Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
 Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.
 Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed.
 Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
 Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
 Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra.
 Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath.
 Biswas, Mr. Bhola Nath.
 Biswas, Mr. Gayanath.
 Emaduddin Ahammed, Mr.
 Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
 Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
 Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.

Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
 Fikr, Mr. F. W.
 Gomes, Mr. S.
 Gomes, Mr. R. A.
 Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed.
 Hafizuddin Choudhury, Mr.
 Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Hatem Ally, Khan Sahib.
 Husan Ara Begum.
 Hutchison, Mr. E. A.
 Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.
 Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Jonab Ali Mia, Mr.
 Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
 Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan
 Jah Salyid.
 Khuda Buksh, Mr. Md.
 Khurram Khan Panoo, Mr.
 Luke, Mr. H. A.
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr.
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan.
 Madar Bux, Mr.
 Mahammad Owais, Mr.
 Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
 Majibar Rahman, Maulvi.
 Malik, Dr. A. M.
 Martuza Reza Chowdhury, Mr.
 Masluddin Ahmed (alias Raja Miah), Mr.
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Talyab.
 Methold, Mr. J. H.
 Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr.
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mozammel Hossain, Dr.
 Mudassar Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
 Muhammad Idris, Maulvi.
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
 Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji.

Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed.
 Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan
 Bahadur.
 Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
 Najmul Huq, Mr. Md.
 Nasarulla, Mr. K.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
 Nurazzaman, Mr., M.B.E.
 Osman Ali, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Parish, Mr. P. E. G. W.
 Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan.
 Rickette, Mrs. E. M.
 Salim, Mr. S. A.
 Serajul Haque, Mr. Syed
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore).
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Gaibandha).
 Serajul Islam, Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (alias
 Badsha Mia), Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
 Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md.
 Sharfuddin Ahmad, Mr.
 Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
 Stark, Mr. A. F.
 Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
 Tafazzal Ali, Mr.
 Todd, Mr. N. K.
 Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
 Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
 Wilkinson, Mr. G.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.

Ayes being 61 and the Noes 116 the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishapati Maji that the demand of Rs. 38,17,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 38,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise", was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

13—Other Taxes and Duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 10,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties".

Mr. BASANTLAL MURARKA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 10,30,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the Sales Tax policy of the Government.

(The member began to speak in Hindi.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Murarka, there is no arrangement for recording speeches in Hindi.

Mr. BASANTLAL MURARKA: I will send an English translation of my speech. (Thereafter the member continued his speech in Hindi, the English translation of which is given below):—

I move a cut motion for Rs. 100 from the proposed grant under the head "Other Taxes and Duties" and I hope you will fully support my motion.

The introduction of Sales Tax by the Bengal Ministry is an act of grave injustice done to the public. The general public will be put to greater hardship by the imposition of this tax. Such a tax is levied by a Government for the people and by the people for the benefit of the masses or for the betterment of their conditions, to increase the productive capacity, etc., etc. The standard of living of the masses in such Governments being high, the people do not grudge the tax. Moreover this is levied on luxury goods and on consumer goods the incidence is not more than 2½ per cent. Therefore, Bengal can, in no circumstances, be compared with those countries. The Ministry here have done absolutely nothing for the uplift of the masses. They have neither made any attempt to increase the productive capacity of the country, nor have they paid any attention to industries, nor done anything for the benefit of the people, whereas in other provinces many new schemes are devised to improve the lot of the masses. Millions and millions of people in Bengal are half-starved, ill-clad, and there are neither adequate medical help nor milk supply. In spite of this, the Ministry here have levied this tax on the poor masses following the example of other countries. But in other countries Governments are run for the people and by the people and if they do anything which is inimical to the interests of the masses they are thrown out of the Government. Take the example of England. W. Churchill was at one time one of the most outstanding figures in England, but his ideas came in conflict with those of the masses. As a result he was thrown out of the Government, lost his popularity and is now a broken reed of a tree. Here in Bengal, the Ministry, in spite of the terrible injustice done by them to the people in general, are still in power.

Mr. MUJIBAR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no convention to speak in Hindi or Hindusthani in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know of any such convention. There is one difficulty that we have no Hindi or Urdu reporters to report such speeches. It has, however, been arranged that he will send an English version of his speech for incorporation in the proceedings.

Mr. BASANTLAL MURARKA: This tax is called "Sales Tax" but is actually a "Purchasing Tax", inasmuch as the purchaser has to pay the tax, thus reducing the buying capacity of the public. Moreover, traders/manufacturers of this province cannot stand in competition with those of the other neighbouring provinces, and States, where no such tax exists. Consequently people living in the border cities of this province are, in order to avoid this Sales Tax, making their purchases from neighbouring provinces and States and are dumping these goods here, thereby seriously affecting the industries of this province. The people are getting disappointed and helpless and if the injustice done by the Ministry is allowed to continue any longer, the inevitable result will be a revolution. There is a limit to everything and the Ministry has exceeded this limit and if anything happens, they should thank themselves. The people cannot flourish if they are required to pay Sales Tax at the rate of Rs. 4-11 per Rs. 100. It is simply a blood-sucking tax and is not doing any good to any man nor to any business. It has also affected the education of the masses.

There are as many as 50,000 small traders in Bengal, who have had to employ extra hands only to keep accounts of this tax. This reduces their already meagre earnings.

I produce before you, honourable members (showing a cash memo.) a cash memo. issued by the Bengal Government Press for the purchase of a piece of paper costing 2 pice. On this purchase a tax of 1 pice has been

levied, representing 50 per cent. of the purchase price. I therefore request the Hon'ble Members on the Treasury Benches that, as it affects them and their families also, they would be impartial and vote in my favour.

I also appeal to the European Members of the Assembly to do humanitarian work prior to their leaving this soil by casting their votes in my favour and thus bringing to an end a Ministry which is inefficient, corrupt, and rank communal.

Mr. RAHMARI ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 10,30,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the policy of Government with regard to Betting Tax and Entertainment Tax.

Sir, the policy hitherto followed by the Government with regard to Betting and Entertainment Taxes is really the policy enunciated and formulated by the former bureaucratic Government of the Britishers. The present Ministry or the Government almost all of whose energy is spent in maintaining their party position in the matter of selecting their Whips, Parliamentary Secretaries and the Ministers and the extending of their numbers, can certainly have no time in formulating their own policy in any matter of vital importance, including the question of betting and entertainment taxes. So we find that the present Government is nothing but the rubber-stamp of the former bureaucratic Governments, so far as their policy about the betting tax and the entertainment tax is concerned.

Sir, I should like to tell the House that in view of the recent statement of Mr. Attlee, the British Prime Minister, when India, of course including Bengal, is on the threshold of independence, it is the duty of the Government to revise and formulate their own policy on this background. It is high time that with the change of circumstances and public opinion the Government should adjust their own policies. There was a time when horse-racing and gambling, a vice indented from the West was accepted by the subjected people only to please their masters. The idea then was that they were Chhota Sahibs and must follow the English people, their Burra Sahibs. The time has now changed; the masters are leaving the country; the spirit of subjection is gone; and freedom is dawning upon the country. The Government should think themselves to be free and should adopt a policy which they like to pursue in free Bengal. May I ask the members if they like that gambling and betting be continued in free Bengal? As for myself I must say that I cannot tolerate such thing in independent Bengal. Sir, the policy in imposing betting tax certainly encourages directly or indirectly the growth of gambling propensities of human beings. There is no doubt about it. It is needless to say that it degrades humanity. There are thousands of instances where many poor, middle class and rich families have brought upon them by indulging in horse racing and gambling complete ruins, and everyday they are doing so due to the policy of the Government to continue betting on the consideration that some amount of money is flowing into the public exchequer. To me it is a crime but the Government call it sports; otherwise they cannot levy any tax. But I say it is not a sport, it is a vice and a canker eating into the vitals of the social life. By levying betting tax the Government virtually aids and abets a criminal act. Gambling is always an evil and can in no circumstances be supported by any Government unless it wants to degrade the moral tone of the people. So I shall appeal to the Government that in the changed circumstances they should stop gambling and horse racing at once. I know that it will be said that gambling instinct is inherent in human being. I am one of those who respectfully differ from this view and hold that human nature is essentially good. I am a believer in the goodness of human nature. It is the governmental and social structure, it is the governmental and social laws that make men bad. The bad policy of the Government in allowing the people to indulge in betting, gambling and racing is making them bad. It is ever

harmful to the people. So if the Government have a mind to do good to the people at large, they must change their policy and totally abolish betting, gambling and racing and the Government should at the same time adopt vigorous measures to educate the people of the evil effects of betting so that its abolition can be properly effected.

With regard to the entertainment tax I should ask the Government to look at things with a realistic angle of vision. I agree, as others will do with me, that to tax the rich and to relieve the poor is a sound policy of taxation. But so far as amusement or entertainment tax is concerned, the reality is that it is the poor class people and middle class people that are paying a greater amount of entertainment tax, if you only take into account the percentage of persons that daily crowd the cinema shows. Ninety per cent. of them come from the middle class or poor people. Hard worked as they are at present, in spite of their economic wants they flock in numbers to cinemas to relieve their minds of various sorts of stresses and pressures of life because human existence needs amusement. It is known to all that a man cannot live by work alone. He must have some play. The rich people have enough of amusement at home. So their number is smaller in comparison with that of other people. Therefore, if you take the realistic picture of the things, you will agree with me that the policy of the Government should now change even with regard to entertainment tax and the poor and the middle class people should be relieved of it. So, I suggest that no amusement tax should be levied on 6 annas, 10 annas and one rupee tickets of cinemas; so also with regard to lower class tickets of theatres. The tax on higher classes tickets should continue and can be made higher, if the Government so desire, in that case, only the rich will be touched.

Another point which I like to suggest to the Government in this connection is that the amusement organised for charitable purposes for the benefit of the people at large should remain tax-free, because in reality it is not an amusement but a service to the humanity.

With these words I commend my cut motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BROJAMADHAB DASS : সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি শ্রীমানহরি রায়ের টাইটল প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে বলি। Betting, wagering, racing প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলা সকল দেশেই নিষিদ্ধ ও সাধারণ আইনে নিষিদ্ধ। কেবল তাই নয়, ইংল্যান্ডের বহুবিধ অবনতির মূল কারণ স্বরূপ। Betting, racing প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলার দ্বারা সমাজের অসচ্ছল ব্যক্তিগণ কোন মঙ্গল সাধিত হয় না। এটা জ্ঞানের না এমন ব্যক্তি নেই, কিন্তু betting, racing প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলাকে আইনসিদ্ধ করে নিয়ে পৃথিবীর সর্বত্র অবাধ পতিতে চলেছে। সমাজে ধার্মা উচ্চ ও অত্যধা দক্ষিণ-পূর্ণ স্থান অধিকার করে আছেন তাঁরাও betting এবং বোড়শোড় প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলায় অংশ গ্রহণ করে থাকেন। কলিকাতার বোড়শোড়ের মাঠে গেলে দেখতে পাওয়া যায় যে উচ্চতর আশালতের বিচারক থেকে আরম্ভ করে সমাজের নিম্নতর স্তরের বহু ব্যক্তি bettingএ যোগদান করেছেন। জুয়াখেলার পাপ সমাজের সমস্ত স্তরে পরিব্যাপ্ত। জুয়াখেলা দ্রুতি ক্ষেত্রে বড় সমস্ত সমাজ-সেহকে বিঘাত করে দিচ্ছে। ইংল্যান্ডে পবিত্রতাপের বিষয় হ'লেও আজ যদি betting, racing প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলা একেবারে বন্ধ করে দেওয়ার প্রস্তাব করা হয় তবে কোথাক বাধা ও আপত্তির সম্মুখীন হতে হবে, যে বিষয়ে বিলম্বিত সন্দেহ নেই। সকল ধর্ম্মই betting, racing প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলা নিষিদ্ধ, ধর্ম্মশাসনবিরুদ্ধ ও নিষিদ্ধ বলা হয়েছে। জুয়াখেলা বন্যায়ের হানিকর ও মানুষকে পতনের নিম্নতর স্তরে নিয়ে যায়। বর্ধের নামে লুণ্ঠন, নারহত্যা, নারীর বধ্যাশ্রয় করা হয়, কিন্তু ধর্ম্মশাসনবিরুদ্ধ হলেও betting আন্তরিকতার সহিত বন্ধ করার, এমনকি নিষা করার প্রচেষ্টা এই পবিত্র-পথে বা বাহিরে দেখতে পাই না। আমরা betting, racing প্রভৃতি জুয়াখেলা বন্ধ করার পক্ষপাতী। যতদূর ইংল্যান্ড বন্ধ হয় ততই সমাজের কল্যাণ। কর ধার্মা করে জুয়াখেলা বন্ধ করা যায় না। কর ধার্মা করে betting, racing, জুয়াখেলা প্রভৃতি অন্যায় ও সমাজবিরুদ্ধ কার্যকে আইনের পোষাক পরিয়ে প্রশ্রয় দেওয়া হয়। জুয়াখেলা বন্ধ করতে হলে শিক্ষা ও প্রচারের দ্বারা সমাজের অনায়াস বোধকে কল্যাণ বৃদ্ধিতে আগ্রহ করতে হবে। ইংল্যান্ডে জুয়াখেলা বন্ধ করার জন্য কোন উপায় আবার জানা নেই। কিন্তু বর্তমান ব্রিটিশের এলিকে কোন লক্ষ্য বা প্রচেষ্টা নেই; তাঁরা সার্বভৌম, উদারনীতির অপর্যবে অপর্যবী।

তারপর আবেদ প্রবোধের উপর কর সযত্নে দু-একটা কথা বলতে চাই। বিত্ত আবেদ প্রবোধ সকলের স্বাধীন প্রয়োজন হয়, বিশেষতঃ বাংলার সিন্ধুভাগ শাসনিক পরিশ্রম করে জীবিকা অর্জন করতে হয়। আবেদনের দেশের শ্রমজীবীদের ও জনসাধারণের আয় এত কম যে, জীবিকানির্ভারের নিত্য আর্থনায়ক প্রয়োজনই তাঁরা মেটাতে পারেন না। আবেদ প্রবোধের জন্য ব্যয় করার মত অবস্থা অনেকেরই থাকে না। একপ অল্প আয়-বিশিষ্ট শ্রমজীবীরা অল্প ব্যয়ে আবেদ প্রবোধে যোগদান করে তাঁদের শ্রান্তি অপনোদন করতে পারেন, সরকারের একপ ব্যবস্থা করা অবশ্য কঠিন মনে করি। আবেদ প্রবোধের উপর কর ধাৰ্য্য সযত্নে আমার বিশেষ একটা মত আছে। শ্রমজীবীরা, অল্প আয়বিশিষ্ট লোকেরা সাধারণতঃ নিম্ন শ্রেণীর আসনের টিকিট কিনে থাকেন। একপ টিকিটের উপর থেকে কর একেবারে তুলে দেওয়া উচিত, এবং বেশী মূল্যের আসনের টিকিটের উপর প্রয়োজন হলে করের অনুপাত বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া যেতে পারে। এই নীতিতে কর ধাৰ্য্য করা হলে এই বিভাগ থেকে যে আয় হবে তার ইতর বিশেষ হবে না।

আবেদ প্রবোধ সযত্নে হোক আর betting সযত্নে হোক কর ধাৰ্য্যের যে নীতি আমরা সমর্থন করি তাহা কোন পর্ডনমেন্ট কর বেলে তার উপর নির্ভর করে। যে পর্ডনমেন্ট কর বসিয়ে জনসাধারণের অর্থ নিয়ে তিনি মিনি বেলে থাকেন বা রাজস্বের অপব্যবহার করেন সেই পর্ডনমেন্টের নিষ্পত্তি কোন করই আমরা সমর্থন করি না। কর ধাৰ্য্যের নীতি কেবল মাত্র good Government সযত্নেই প্রযোজ্য।

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 10,30,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of abolishing Sales Tax on (i) khaddar, cotton shivers, charka and (ii) betel-leaves.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, ১৯৪১ সনে বিক্রয়কর আইন রচনা প্রবর্তিত হয় কৃষি শিল্পকে রক্ষা করার জন্য তাঁদের কাপড়কে এই বিক্রয়করের হাত থেকে রেহাই দেওয়া হয়েছিল। কিন্তু পূর্ণ বস্ত্রী লীগ মন্ত্রনালয়ী ১৯৪৩ সালের ডায়ারী লুজিকের বিভীষিকা সম্পূর্ণরূপে প্রশমিত হওয়ারপূর্বেই জনকল্যাণমূলক কাজ করার জন্য অর্থের প্রয়োজন প্রথমে sales tax বিত্ত করার প্রস্তাব আনেন। Sales tax বিত্ত করে যায়, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পুষ্টি কার্য আইনে কৃষি শিল্প রক্ষার জন্য যে তাঁদের কাপড়কে sales tax থেকে রেহাই দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছিল সে ব্যবস্থা রহিত হয়ে যায়। মন্ত্রনালয়ী দাবী করেন যে তাঁরা দরিদ্রের বন্ধু। যে সারী প্রমাণ করার জন্যই যেন মনে হয় ১৯৪৪ সনের আইনে এমন একটা ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছিল যে কোন নির্দিষ্ট লালের তাঁতের এক মিলের কাপড়, বৃত্তি, লাড়ী এবং লুজিকের বিক্রয়কর থেকে রেহাই দিতে হবে। Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই পরিষদের অবিকাশ সভা প্রায়ের লোক। তাঁরা এশিকেরই সভা হউন আর ঐ শিকেরই সভা হউন, যে শিকেরই হউন না কেন আমি আশা করি একথা সকলেই স্বীকার করবেন যে ১৯৪৪ সাল থেকে প্রায়ের দরিদ্র লোকের ভাগ্যে মিলের কাপড় বড় জোড়েনি। সরকার মাথাপিছু বৎসরে ১২ গজ কাপড় বরাদ্দ করেছিলেন। ১৯৪৫ সালের এপ্রিল থেকে ১৯৪৬ সালের ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত এক বৎসর নয় মাসে মাথাপিছু ২১ গজ কাপড় প্রযোজকের পাওয়া উচিত ছিল। গ্রাম দেশের নদী দরিদ্র নিম্নশ্রেণে জামা, বিয়ে, শরীর কানন, শ্রাদ্ধ, পূজা ইত্যাদির জন্য সবজি মিলিয়ে মাথাপিছু মাত্র চার গজ কাপড় দেওয়া হয়েছে। ধোঁহোনে কাপড়টী নাই সেখানে মিল কাপড়ের উপর থেকে tax উঠিয়ে দেওয়া লোককে উপদ্রাব করা ছাড়া আর কি হতে পারে? তারপর ১৯৪৬ সনের ১১শে মার্চ তারিখে সরকারী বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে ৫ টাকা লালের বৃত্তি, ৭/১০ টাকা লালের লাড়ী এবং ৪১ টাকা লালের লুজির উপর থেকে বিক্রয়কর উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হয়। কিন্তু Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাস্তব অবস্থার সঙ্গে বাংলার পরিচয় আছে তাঁরা সকলেই জানেন ঐ লানে পরিধানযোগ্য তাঁতের বৃত্তি, লাড়ী বা লুজি পাওয়া যায় না। দুই একখানা পাওজা যেতে পারে কিন্তু তা পরিধানযোগ্য নয়, অত্যন্ত ধোঁহোনে। কাজেই এই বিক্রয়কর পর্ডনমেন্ট যে কতগুলি নির্দিষ্ট লানের জিনিষের উপর থেকে রহিত করেছেন তাতে বাস্তবিক পক্ষে লবিত জনসাধারণের স্বার্থা হয় নাই। কৃষি শিল্পেরও অসুবিধা হয়েছে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দরিদ্রের প্রতি সহানুভূতিচক বজ্রাতী উলটে বেশ উদার, কিন্তু তাঁদের সহানুভূতি কার্যে রূপ দিতে যত বিধি প্রণয়ন করেন সেটিকে বৃত্তি দিলে মনে হয় যেন আত্মসিকতার অভাব। তাঁরা জনসাধারণের কার্যা এবং অভাব অভিযোগ সযত্নে এত অজ্ঞ যে তাঁদের ইচ্ছা থাকলেও তাঁদের কোন উপকার করতে পারেন না। 'তাই ত' বেশী দরিদ্রের কষ্ট করার জন্য নির্দিষ্ট লানের বৃত্তি, লাড়ী এবং লুজির উপর থেকে বিক্রয়কর বাত দেওয়া হয়েছে, কিন্তু সে লানে বৃত্তি, লাড়ী ও লুজি বাজারে পাওয়া যায় না। কিন্তু যে দেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক দিনের অধিকাংশ সময় গারাম্ভা পরে লবজা বিদ্যায়ণ করে সে গারাম্ভাকে বিক্রয়কর থেকে রেহাই দেওয়া হয় নাই। (VOICES FROM THE OPPOSITION: Shame,

ashame.) তারপর বর্ষী বহাশয়রা কি বনে করেছেন যে দরিদ্র বলে লক্ষণ নীতেও তাদের জামা, কাপড় ও চাদরের কোন প্রয়োজন নেই। তাই কি কতৃপক জামার কাপড়, চাদর প্রভৃতি বিক্রয়কর হতে বাধ্য বেন নাই। যদি তাঁরা দরিদ্রের বদল করতে চাইতেন তা' হলে এই সমস্তগুলি নিশ্চয়ই বিক্রয়কর থেকে রেহাই পেত। এইবার আমি শিল্পের দিক থেকে বিক্রয়কর সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলবো। আমাদের এই বাংলা দেশ বস্ত্র-শিল্পের জন্য বিখ্যাত ছিল। ইংরেজ শাসনের ফলে সে শিল্প ধ্বংস হয়েছে। ইতিহাসের সে কতৃপ বেলালশায়ক কাহিনী আমি বলতে চাই না। (VOICES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PARTY : ববুন একটু ভনি।) কিন্তু বহনানে জনপ্রতিনিধিরা শাসনমন্ত্র পরিচালনা করছেন। তাঁরা শিল্পোন্নয়নের কথা মুখে বহেও কাজের বেলায় ঐ চাকর বসিয়ে দরিদ্র শিল্পীকে, সবধনশূন্য তাঁত শিল্পীদের মরণের মুখে এগিয়ে দিতে সাহায্য করছেন মাত্র। সমস্ত দেশে যখন বস্ত্র-সঙ্কট, লোক যখন বস্ত্রাভাবে লজ্জা নিবারণ করতে পারে না, গৃহস্থানী যখন তার স্ত্রী-পুত্র-কন্যাব লজ্জা নিবারণের জন্য অস্থির হয়ে এক-খণ্ড বস্ত্রের জন্য ঘরে ঘরে দিনের পর দিন Food Committee's Secretary, Union Board এর প্রেসিডেন্ট কিংবা Civil Supply Inspector এর কাছে কত ভায়গায়, কতভাবে খোসামোদি করে বেড়াতে তখন যদিও তাঁত শিল্পের পুসার করে অত্যধিক বস্ত্র উৎপাদন করে, চরকার মতো কাটা প্রচলন করে বন্দর উৎপাদনের সহায়তা করে অনেক পরিমাণে বস্ত্র-সঙ্কট হাঙ্গ করা যেত তা, আমাদের সরকার করেনি। করার প্রয়োজনও বোধ করেনি। একমাত্র চরকার প্রচলন করে বন্দর উৎপাদন করে বস্ত্র-সমস্যার সমাধান করা যায়। কিন্তু বড়ই শৃংখের বিষয় সরকার তা করেনি বরং চাকর বসিয়ে সে সমস্যা আরও জটিল করেছেন। তারপর আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে শিল্পের সঙ্গে প্রতিযোগিতায় তাঁত শিল্প বাঁচতে পারে না। তাকে অসম প্রতিযোগিতা করতে হয়। কিন্তু ধনবান আমাদের শিল্পীদের শিল্প নৈপুণ্যকে। তারা নানা রকম ভুলব কারুকার্যসম্পন্ন বস্ত্র উৎপাদন করে এবং নানা রকম বন্দরের জিনিষ তৈরী করে টিকে ছিল। সরকার তাকে বন্ধ না করে বিক্রয়কর চাপিয়ে মারবাব ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। আর একটা কথা—দাকাই, শাক্তিপুর্নী এবং মাক্কাইলের প্রায়ের কাপড় একটু বেশী দামে বিক্রী হয়। সেগুলি বেশী দামে বিক্রী হয় বলে অবকাপড় লোকেরা কিনে—এই দ্রুতগতে তাদের উপর চাকর বসান হয়েছে। (VOICE FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES : তাহলে বুঝতে পেরেছেন।) এই চাকর বোঝার উপর শাকের আঁচির মত এই শিল্পকে ধ্বংস করতে চাচ্ছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Bhattacharjee, your time is up.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE : এক মিনিট সাহাব, এইবার পানের উপর বিক্রয়করের কথা বলবো। আমাদের দেশে যাবা পানের চাষ করে তারা অন্য কাজ বড় একটা করে না। এই পানের উপর চাকর হওয়াতে তাদের খুবই অসুবিধা হয়েছে। এই দরিদ্র দেশের লোকেরা অজ্ঞানতায়ের পান তামাক দিয়ে নিত্যজলের ডব্রডা ও সৌজনা প্রকাশ করে থাকে। দরিদ্রের বন্ধু মস্তিরওলা লম্বা করে তামাকের উপর চাকর বাদ দিয়ে দিয়েছেন। আমি অনুবোধ করবো এই পানের চাকর রেহাই দিন। পানের সঙ্গে যে চুন খাওয়া হয়, তার মধ্যে যে calcium আছে তাতে বাসা খণ্ডা সহজে হজম হয়—পানের সঙ্গে calcium খাওয়া যেটা জীর্ণ হয়। আমাদের স্বাস্থ্যের দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখলে আমাদের পান খাওয়া উচিত। সেজন্য আমি অনুবোধ করতে চাই এই tax উঠিয়ে দিন। তাতে আয়ের দিক দিয়ে ক্ষতি হ'বে, কিন্তু জনসাধারণ উপকৃত হ'বে। তাই বন্দব, তাঁত শিল্প, চরকা, পান প্রভৃতির উপর থেকে tax উঠিয়ে দিন। এই বলে আমি শেষ করছি।

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমার বন্ধ Mr. Murarka যে বং ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপন করেছেন তাইই সমর্থনে হই-একটি কথা বলতে চাই। Sales Tax যখন প্রথম প্রবর্তিত হ'বে তখন হইতেই দেশে এ'ব বিকল্পে প্রবল আপত্তি উপস্থিত হ'বে এবং সে আপত্তি খণ্ডনের জন্য তদানীন্তন মন্ত্রিবর্গ এই আগুাস দিয়েছিলেন যে, এই আইন প্রয়োজনের অধিক বেশী দিন বাধা হ'বে না, কিন্তু সে উঠিয়ে দেওয়া'ব প্রস্তাব মন্ত্রিবর্গ আজ পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করেন নাই। এই আইন প্রবর্তিত হ'ওয়া অবধি গভর্নমেন্ট সব আশায় ব্যতীত এ সম্বন্ধে প্রতিজ্ঞাব হেতু এমন কোন কার্য এখন পর্যন্ত তুলিয়া দিবার জন্য করেন নাই। এই আইন প্রয়োগে ব্যবসায়ী এবং ক্ষেত্র উভয়ই হুঁতো'ব ভোগ করবে এবং ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হ'বে। গভর্নমেন্ট যে পরিমাণে অর্থ লাভ করতে তার চেয়ে অধিক পরিমাণ ক্ষতি দেশের জনসাধারণকে বহন করতে হ'বে। এই আইনের বিধানে Register'ডুক্ত ব্যবসায়িগণ, যে ব্যবসায়িগণ Register'ডুক্ত নয় তাদের সহিত অসম প্রতিযোগিতায় অভিগ্রস্ত হ'বে। ইহা নিশ্চয়ই গভর্নমেন্ট'ও অস্বীকার করবেন না, কারণ এক পক্ষকে চাকর দিতে হয় আর অন্য পক্ষকে দিতে হয় না। বাংলা দেশে যে সমস্ত ব্যবসায়ি প্রবৃত্ত হ'বে উভয় প্রবৃত্তকারক ব্যবসায়ীদের চাকর দিতে হ'বে, কিন্তু বাংলার বাইর হ'বে তারা ব্যবসায়ি সববরায় করছে তাদের কোন চাকর দিতে হয় না। কাজেই ক'ব

দরের জিনিষের সহিত বেশী দরের জিনিষের প্রতিযোগিতা ক্ষেত্রে বাংলার ব্যবসারিগণ কতিপুস্ত হ'চ্ছে। এর ফলে কেবলমাত্র বাংলার ব্যবসারিগণকে কতি খীকার করতে হচ্ছে না, জনসাধারণেরও বহু ক্ষতি হ'চ্ছে। বাংলার অর্থ বাইরে চলে যাচ্ছে এবং গভর্নমেন্টের এই আয়ে শুল্কভগ্নকে যতদূর কতি সাধন করা হচ্ছে। ইহার ভবিষ্যৎ পরিণাম এই হ'বে যে, দেশের বিলুপ-শ্রুতিমান লোপ পাবে এবং বেকারের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাবে। বর্তমানে এই চ্যালেঞ্জের চাপে বহু শ্রমাবি ভিড়ি পুচ্ছে হ'তে আরম্ভ হ'য়েছে। এর ফলে এই দেশের ব্যবসারিগণের মধ্যে হতাশের ভাব দেখা দিচ্ছে। ভিন্ন ভিন্ন পুচ্ছের ব্যবসারিগণ এই দেশে সত্য দরে জিনিষ বিক্রী করে লাভবান হ'চ্ছে আর এই দেশের ব্যবসারিগণ দিনের পর দিন কতিপুস্ত হ'চ্ছে। এরই ফলে বই হ'তে আরম্ভ করে পুস্তক প্রকা ভিন্ন পুচ্ছে হ'তে আরম্ভ হ'চ্ছে ও ভিন্ন দেশের ব্যবসারিগণ লাভবান হ'চ্ছে। এই চ্যালেঞ্জ আদায় ব্যবস্থা সম্পর্কে ও জনসাধারণ সমাক কিছু অসংগত নয় এবং তজ্জন্ম ও বহু লোক প্রভাবিত হইতেছে। কারণ আইন অনুযায়ী Register-ভুক্ত ব্যবসারিগণই চ্যালেঞ্জ আদায় করতে পারে। কিন্তু কাযাত: দেখা যায় যারা Register-ভুক্ত নয় এমন অনেক লোকানলার ও ব্যবসারি আছে—যারা এই Tax পরিশোধের নিকট হ'তে আদায় করেন। জানি না এইভাবে আদায় করা বৈধ কিনা। কিন্তু যদি বৈধ না হয় তার শ্রুতিকারের জন্য গভর্নমেন্ট যেটিই সচেষ্ট নয়। দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ লোকানলারদের নিকট এইভাবে প্রভাবিত হ'চ্ছে। গভর্নমেন্ট হয়ত অভিযোগ করার পথ দেখাইয়া দিবে, কিন্তু পুস্তক ব্যাপারেই যদি অভিযোগ করা কাজ হ'য়ে পড়ায় তবে স্তব্ধ যে অস্তিত্ব হয়ে উঠবে। বেলে, স্তব্ধের চলেতে গেলে অভিযোগ করতে হবে, নিগিগু বাস করতে হলে অভিযোগ করতে হবে—এইভাবে যদি শ্রুতি ব্যাপারে অভিযোগ করেই বেঁচে থাকতে হয় তা হ'লে দেশের জনসাধারণের পক্ষে সেভাবে জীবনধারণ করে চলা অসম্ভব। পুস্তকই গভর্নমেন্ট যদি দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের উপকার চান তা হ'লে এই আইন এইরূপ জরীপূর্ণ নানা কারণেই উঠিয়ে দেওয়া প্রয়োজন। এবং এই আইনের জরী কেবলমাত্র প্রয়োগেই নয় আইন প্রণয়নের জরী জন্ম ও অস্তিত্বের দায়বদ্ধ সত্ত্ব হয় নাই। এই আইন সেভাবে প্রয়োগ হচ্ছে তাতে জনসাধারণ প্রভাবিত হচ্ছে। গভর্নমেন্ট ও এই আইন সেভাবে প্রয়োগ করা উচিত যে সত্য কোন বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতি অবলম্বন করেন নাই—তাহ ফলে জনসাধারণ শ্রুতিই প্রভাবিত হচ্ছে। আমি আশা করি এই পুস্তক আপনাদের গ্রহণ করবেন।

Mr. ARABINDA GAYEN : মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, আমি গভর্নমেন্টের বিরুদ্ধে নীতির শ্রুতিবাদে কিছু

বলিতে চাই। ১৯৪৭ সালে যখন পূর্ণ বিরুদ্ধ জনসাধারণের উপর চাপাটয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছিল, তখন বলা হইয়াছিল যে, যুদ্ধের জন্য গভর্নমেন্ট যে দাবী অব সঙ্কট পড়িয়াছেন তাহারা জন্যই গভর্নমেন্ট এই কর বসাইতে বাধ্য হইয়াছেন; নীতিশ্রুতি মাত্র ১ পর্যা কর দায় করা হয়। দুই বৎসর হইল যুদ্ধ দামিয়া গিয়াছে, গভর্নমেন্ট যে যুদ্ধের ফলে এই কর বসাইয়াছিলেন সে যুদ্ধের অবশান হইয়াছে, কিন্তু কর এখন ক্রমে ক্রমে ১ পর্যা হইতে ৩ পর্যা হইয়াছে। বাংলার জনসাধারণ, কেবলমাত্রগণকে যুক্তি দিবার কোন চেষ্টাই হইতেছে না। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট সময়ে সময়ে বলিয়া থাকেন যে, তাহারা জনসাধারণের representative এবং তাহারা জনসাধারণের কল্যাণ সাধনের জন্যই শাসনয়ন্ত্র পরিচালনা করিতেছেন। কিন্তু তাহারা যেভাবে কার্য পরিচালনা করিতেছেন তাহা হইতে কি ইহাই প্রমাণিত হইতেছে না যে, তাহারা জনস্বার্থকে পঙ্গলিত করিয়া চলিতে নক্ষপরিবর। সৈন্যশিন তীব্র-যাপনের জন্য অপরিহার্য জিনিষগুলির মূল্যের উপর এই বিরুদ্ধকরের কি বিষয় মল হইয়াছে তাহা সরকার জানেন না। যখন বিরুদ্ধকর বসানো হইয়াছিল তখন ইহা বলা হইয়াছিল যে, বিরুদ্ধকর ব্যবসারিগণের অতিরিক্ত মুনাফা করার ক্ষেত্রে সাধন সহায়তা করিবে, কিন্তু যে কোন বাস্তব দৃষ্টান্তগু গভর্নমেন্টের দৃষ্টি উচিত যে তত্বে বাস্তব ব্যবসারিগণ ক্রেতারের নিকট হইতে দ্রব্য কর আদায় করিয়া লইবেন ও লইতেছেন। যদি ক্রেতার হইতে মুক্ত করিতে হয়, তাহা হইলে কর একেবারে তুলিয়া দিতে হইবে। তাহা উপর বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট কর দায়্য করিবার জন্য বিরুদ্ধকরের যে সপ্তানি মান দায়্য করিয়াছেন তাহা অত্যন্ত কম। সাধারণ বৃহৎ ব্যবসারি, তাহাদের নিকট কর যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ আদায় করা হউক, ইহাই আমি বলিতে চাই। কিন্তু ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসারিগণ সাহায্যে কতিপুস্ত না হয়, এবং করতাহ সাহায্যে ক্রেতারের উপর না পড়ে, তাহা লক্ষ্য রাখা যে কোন শাসনশীল গভর্নমেন্টের কর্তব্য। এ বিষয় আমরা উদ্ভিয়া ও বিহাদের দিকে তাকাইলে বুঝিতে পারি জনসাধারণের শ্রুতি সহানুভূতিশীল গভর্নমেন্ট কিঞ্চিপভাবে জনস্বার্থ সাংরক্ষণের চেষ্টা করেন। সেখানে মাত্র এই বৎসর ১ পর্যা বিরুদ্ধকর দায়্য করিয়াছে, এবং সাহায্যে অসহ-প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের উপর ইহার চাপ না পড়ে এবং সাহায্যে ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসারিগণ কতিপুস্ত না হয়, তাহা জন যথেষ্ট বন্দোবস্ত করা হইয়াছে। বাংলার জনসাধারণের অবস্থা, বিহার-উদ্ভিয়া জনসাধারণের অপেক্ষা তত উন্নত নহে যে, যেখানে তাহারা ১ পর্যা দিনে বাংলার জনসাধারণ সেখানে ৩ পর্যা দিতে সক্ষম। বিরুদ্ধকর আদায়ের জন্য ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসারিগণের উপর যেভাবে জুলুম করা হয়

আমি তাহার প্রতি দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। বিক্রমকর আদায়কারীরা ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ীদের নিকট উৎকোচ গ্রহণের জন্য নানা প্রকারে তাহাদের উপর অত্যাচার করে। আমার বিশ্বাস যে, যতদিন গভর্ণমেন্ট তাহাদের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী পরিবর্তন না করিবেন, ততদিন বাংলার জনসাধারণের শান্তির আশা নাই।

জগদীশ প্রতিবাদ স্বরূপ আমি এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব পরিষদের নিকট গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Maulvi MUHAMMAD IDRIS: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I oppose the cut motion moved by the Opposition, but I shall be failing in my duties if I do not criticise the policy of Government regarding commercial tax which I hold to be not very fair and just. Particularly, Sir, I think the method of the Government in levying sales-tax on certain textile commodities, is not at all intelligent or wise. It is very fair and good of the Government to exempt certain textile commodities from the operation of commercial tax. The Government has been just and fair to exempt certain hand-loom and mill-made textile goods, namely, handloom sarees, cloths, lungis, etc., up to a certain standard. But, Sir, it is very surprising to note that there are many other textile commodities which are chiefly consumed by the poorer class of the people and which are not exempt from commercial tax. I want to mention a few of them here, namely, cotton chaddar, wrapper, napkin, etc., the price of which may be whatever little, even a rupee less, and which are indispensable for the poorer class of people in cold weather, but yet these goods are not exempt from sales tax. I do not know the reason as to why these goods are not exempt. I ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to consider these for the interest of the poorer class of people at least and to at once exempt these commodities from the sales tax. I also request the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali to exempt all hand-loom made goods below 20 rupees from the sales tax, as I think, Sir, handloom goods below rupees twenty now-a-days are chiefly consumed by poorer class of people. With these few words, Sir, I take my seat.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very interesting to find Mr. Murarka, who is neither a native of Bengal nor conversant with the language of the Province, shedding crocodile tears on the floor of the House over the hardship of the people (Cries of "hear," "hear", from the Government Benches).

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege Sir, একজন মেম্বর এই ভাবে অপর একজন মেম্বরের বিরুদ্ধে aspersion জানতে পাবেন কি করে? আব কি করেই বা তিনি বলতে পাবেন যে ঐ member-এই মেম্বরের অধিবাসী নন ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not find anything unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I wish to make it clear that I did not intend to cast any aspersion to the honourable member nor did I use any derogatory language. I was simply saying that it was very interesting to find Mr. Murarka who did not happen to be a native of this Province nor could speak the language of the land shedding crocodile tears over the miseries of the people of Bengal. He had in fact let the cat out of the bag when he was dealing with goods worth about lakhs and crores and yet he was grudging the payment of a little sales tax.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Murarka is not just now here. He delivered a speech which was not probably understood by the Hon'ble Minister. Mr. Murarka does not deal in goods; he deals in shares.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: If he is dealing in shares, he is a speculator and a capitalist and the more we can tax the speculator and the capitalist, the more happy we will be. A sound taxation policy is that which would tax the rich in order to help the poor, and there cannot be a more equitable form of taxation than the sales tax because it taxes the

paving capacity of the persons who can afford to pay. It is a more equitable tax than the income-tax because income-tax does not take into account the amount of liability that a man has to undergo for the maintenance of a large family and dependants. But the sales tax is one which is not imposed on daily necessities of the purchaser. Therefore I cannot understand why there should be any grievance against this very equitable tax.....

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Here is an instance that you are taxing one pice from one who is paying only two pice for the purchase of a certain piece of paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chattopadhyaya, I do not think that is proper. I do not like that this sort of running interruptions should go on when the Hon'ble Minister is speaking. I find that there are such interruptions from this side when members of the other side are speaking. Whether you agree with him or not, that is a different matter, but you must give him a patient hearing. You can only question when he is making a statement with which you do not agree.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I sympathise with the members opposite. I can understand their resentment because I know that truth is always bitter.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: You can say whatever you like because any amount of protection can be given to you by the Speaker.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It must be realised that under the Sales Tax Act the essential necessities of life have been exempted and all the agriculturists have also been exempted. It is a tax on articles other than those considered essential for the poor man and the poor agriculturists.(A VOICE FROM THE CONGRESS SIDE: What about cloth—) (noise and interruptions).

Mr. SPEAKER: I find there is too much of interruptions, and I cannot understand what reason is there for doing so. I hope a peaceful atmosphere should be maintained in the House, and there should not be any unnecessary interruptions from any quarters.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: As regards cloth, cloth that is necessary for the poor man, has been exempted. As regards exemption of handloom cloth, exemption has also been given to certain classes of handloom cloth. As regards the point raised by Mr. Idris, I can assure him that his is a point which will be considered by Government sympathetically. In view of shortage of cloth, even poor persons have got to buy handloom cloth. Therefore it is a question which is engaging the attention of Government and it will be considered sympathetically by Government. But Government will not be able to exempt all handloom productions of higher or better quality; it is only the cheaper product which may be considered for exemption.

Then, Sir, Mr. Roy has mentioned about the betting and entertainments-tax. Government is not encouraging any form of betting and gambling; it has been prohibited by an Act of the legislature but Government has to recognise that the instinct for gambling is inherent in human beings. Therefore it is better to control that instinct as far as practicable, and as it is not possible to stamp it out altogether, it has been allowed only under certain conditions and has been placed in the hands of certain reliable persons. It is permitted to gamble within certain limits and in certain enclosed areas—in the enclosure of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club. It has been said that Government should prohibit even this sort of gambling altogether, but there is a danger of this betting going underground, and there will be all kinds of illegal betting, if not on racing, on other things. As members know, there is gambling on shares, on rains, and on all imaginable kinds of things. Therefore it is better that Government should

try to restrict it and it should be in the hands of reliable persons and not in the hands of unscrupulous persons. This will make the most out of this human weakness. In the same breath with which Mr. Ram Hari Roy opposes betting, he says that amusements should be made free of tax. Sir, amusement is not only a form of recreation but it is a luxury, because we find that the poor people of the province are not getting even two square meals a day. They are famished, and any form of taxation on any kind of luxury for giving relief to these poor people should not be opposed by any right-thinking persons. We must give a square deal to those persons who are not even at the present moment getting two square meals a day. Therefore if you tax amusement it is a tax on luxury and should not be objected to by any person who has the interests and welfare of the rural populace at heart.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: What about the tax on betel leaves or *pan*?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There are certain kinds of tax and excise duty which unfortunately are not of our making and the revenues from which do not go into the provincial exchequer.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: But I am not speaking of betel-nuts but about the tax on betel leaves.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, we are trying to make the most of this human weakness and we are getting about 80 lakhs or almost about a crore from the betting tax, totalisator tax and the gate-money from the race course. This tax is realised from the people of Calcutta and it is going to the people of the province, because it is going into the provincial exchequer and is utilised for nation-building purposes. I agree that gambling should be prevented and controlled by Government. We have an anti-gambling Act in the province for that purpose and any form of gambling and betting other than racing is prohibited and Government are trying to see that no other kind of gambling than horse-racing is permitted with an eye to prevent leakage of Government revenues.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions and commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Basant Lal Murarka that the demand of Rs.10,30,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ram Hari Roy that the demand of Rs. 10,30,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Munindra Nath Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 10,30,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs.10,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6.55 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 19th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 19th March, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 208 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Munshiganj waterworks scheme.

***167. Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

- (a) at what stage the "waterworks scheme" of Munshiganj (Dacca) is lying;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that there is an acute scarcity of water in the town where population has increased;
- (c) whether there is any hope of the scheme being given early effect to;
- (d) whether the scheme has been approved by the Government; and
- (e) what amount of money has been raised—
 - (i) by way of public donation, and
 - (ii) from rate-payers for house connection?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a) A water-supply scheme for Munshiganj was prepared in September, 1939, and finally sanctioned by Government in May, 1941. Contracts were actually placed and necessary provisions made in the budget but work could not be undertaken on account of difficulties in procuring materials during the war. The scheme is now being thoroughly revised.

(b) The daily supply of water is inadequate.

(c) As the scheme is still in the stage of revision it will take perhaps a year before it can be finally sanctioned and given effect to. This delay is unavoidable as the scheme after revision will have to be considered by the local bodies, District Magistrate, Divisional Commissioner and the Sanitary Board, Bengal, before Government can consider it for final approval.

(d) The scheme in its revised form has not yet been approved either administratively or finally by Government.

(e) This is a matter for the local bodies who are expected to provide funds to cover at least one-third of the estimated cost of the scheme. Government have no information on these points.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this scheme in its revised form was completed?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: In the year 1941.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: By whom is it being considered now?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: By the Public Health Department.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this scheme is going to be revised?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: In view of the fact that the cost of materials and labour has gone up.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the urgency of the matter, he will ask the different bodies to consider it as early as possible?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The scheme is under preparation now and I think it will be shortly taken up.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the contract was actually placed when the whole scheme was not sanctioned?

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not arise. The reply is clear. The sanction of the Government was there and a contractor was engaged but he failed to do the work. Meanwhile the scheme was revised.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Government consider the desirability of revising the whole scheme?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Because the cost of materials has gone up and for this reason the scheme has got to be revised.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that unless there is definiteness about the undertaking of the Government the local bodies cannot realise their part of the money? Will Government make a definite statement about it?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: In view of the fact that only the cost of materials has gone up and revision is necessary will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why it will take about a year to sanction the final scheme?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I would refer the honourable member to answer (c).

Mr. JYOTI BASU: It does not answer at all. My question was why it will take one year to revise the scheme in view of the fact that the cost of materials went up—and that was the only bar why the scheme could not be put into effect.

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Because we have got to find out from the local bodies, local people and local boards whether they are in a position to finance the scheme because the cost will go up from about Rs. 97,000 to about Rs. 3 lakhs.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the rise in the price of materials is the only reason why Government consider it desirable to revise the scheme thoroughly?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Yes.

Dhirendra Burman, a political prisoner.

*168. **Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the circumstances in which S_j. Dhirendra Burman, a political prisoner convicted in connection with two cases of Balurghat and Parilohat during the August (1942) movement, has been kept in Jail;

- (ii) the present state of his health;
- (iii) where he is lodged at present;
- (iv) whether he is being treated at present as a division III prisoner;
and
- (v) if it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Dinajpur had long before recommended that he should be placed in division II?
- (b) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—
 - (i) releasing him in view of the changed circumstances in the country;
and
 - (ii) placing him in division II as recommended by the District Magistrate, Dinajpur, pending his release?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a)(i) He was convicted under sections 56(4) and 35(4), Defence of India Rules, and section 395, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 7 years. He is undergoing the sentence in jail.

(ii) Good. He has gained in weight since admission. He suffers from filaria for which he is being treated properly.

(iii) In Midnapore Central Jail.

(iv) and (b) (i) Yes.

(v) No.

(b) (ii) Does not arise in view of reply to clause (v) above.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: With reference to answer (b)(ii), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the stage of consideration will finish resulting in the release of the prisoner?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: A definite time cannot be given but it is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: In view of the statement that the political prisoner is suffering from filaria, how does the Hon'ble Minister say that the condition of his health is good?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Filaria is not a very serious disease—it is curable—and he is being treated and Government think that it is not so serious.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to the nature of his treatment? Will he please explain how is he being treated properly—in the hospital or by the Civil Surgeon or by whom?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: By the doctor in charge of the jail.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us information about his weight when he was first convicted and his present weight with reference to his answer (a)(ii)?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: His weight on the date of admission was 124 lbs. and our latest information is that his weight has gone up and he is now 147 lbs.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if any enquiry was held in connection with his petition regarding classification?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the result of the enquiry in regard to his petition?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: This matter has been twice considered by the Government and it was referred to the District Magistrate and on both the occasions the District Magistrate did not agree to classify him as Class II prisoner.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the reasons why a higher classification was not recommended or refused by the District Magistrate?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: In the opinion of the District Magistrate, the prisoner in question is not eligible to Division II because of his social status, education and the habit of life to which he is accustomed.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of releasing all prisoners convicted in political cases?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add. The question is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the educational qualification of the prisoner in question and what was his social status before arrest?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I am not ready to give the details, but the District Magistrate has enquired into the matter and he is definitely of the opinion that this prisoner does not deserve any higher classification.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is ready to rely upon the report of the District Magistrate in this matter and does not think about the necessity of verifying what was the status of the prisoner before he was arrested?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes; it has been verified through the District Magistrate.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us as to who actually enquired into the matter?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that this matter had been referred to the District Magistrate twice and on both the occasions he was of the same opinion that this prisoner is not entitled to be classified in Division II.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: From this answer do I take it that the District Magistrate himself enquired into the matter?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It may be so but we are satisfied that the District Magistrate got an enquiry made.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Can the Hon'ble Minister tell us definitely as to whether the District Magistrate enquired into the matter or any other person was deputed by the District Magistrate to make the enquiry?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government is not willing to reconsider the matter.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Since the question of the release of political prisoners has been under consideration of Government ever since the Ministry assumed office, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long more they will take to consider this question?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: My friend is not right when he says that since the assumption of office by this Ministry this question is under the

consideration of Government. After the assumption of offices this Government has released almost all the prisoners except a very few whose cases are under the consideration of Government now.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the percentage of Divisions I, II and III prisoners?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to hold an enquiry—a fresh enquiry as to the classification question if I give this information that he is adequately fit to be classified as Division II prisoner?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No; Government is not prepared to do that.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: In view of the fact that he is not keeping good health, as stated by the Minister, will he be pleased to consider the desirability of expediting the question of his release?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: As regards the first part of the question I do not accept the statement of the honourable member. As regards the second part Government will certainly try to expedite their decision.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that he developed symptoms of insanity sometime ago in Jail?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: No

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: In view of the Hon'ble Minister's answer that Government will certainly expedite the release of the prisoner, will he be pleased to state what stands in the way of releasing him immediately?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: This is a political question. It cannot be answered off-hand. I have already said that the release of a few political prisoners still under detention is under the consideration of Government.

Number of casualties in Calcutta riots.

***169. Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

- (a) the actual figure of casualties (deaths and wounded) in the recent disturbances in Calcutta and Howrah in connection with the observance of Direct Action Day of the Muslim League; and
- (b) the number of deaths and injured among men, women and children, both Hindus and Muhammadans, in Calcutta and Howrah?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): Government is not prepared to answer this question, as the matter is still under enquiry by the Calcutta Disturbances Enquiry Commission.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. To these questions beginning from Question No. 169 up to Question No. 173 the same reply is given everywhere. Government has contemplated not to answer these questions in view of the provision laid down in sub-rule (viii) of rule 26 of the Assembly Procedure Rules. I would like to make my submission that the Enquiry Commission is not a Court. It is only a Commission and the finding it is expected to come to is only the party which are responsible for these riots. So, Sir, sub-rule (viii) of rule 26 of the Assembly Procedure Rules would give them no exemption from answering these questions. We find that to five of the questions a stereotyped answer has been given everywhere, namely, that Government is not prepared to answer

this question. Sir, in view of the gravity of the riots which took place from August 16 to August 19 in Calcutta, I think these questions should be held over and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department should be asked once more to give replies.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, Government thinks that it would be undesirable at this stage to answer these questions. As the Enquiry Commission is going on enquiring into the thing, we cannot at this moment answer these questions.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I submit that the statement made by Mr. Mazharul Haque should not be allowed to go unchallenged. He has said that the Commission is not after all a Court of Enquiry, but it is this House which has vested the Commission with the power of report, and therefore it is not quite correct to say that the Commission has no powers like a Court. The Commission has the powers like a Court.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, question 171(d), viz., whether it is a fact that 80 to 100 Muslims were confined in lock-ups which could not accommodate more than 20, is a charge against the Police. I do not think it has got anything to do with the Commission of Enquiry. So, Sir, I submit that this part of the question must be answered, if not other questions connected with riots?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I am sorry my friend forgets that the Commission will go into every matter—whether Police has done right or wrong or whether this community has done this thing or that community that thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Either on the ground that the matter is *sub judice* or on the ground of the larger interests of the Province I think the reply to the questions by the Government that they are not in a position to supply the information asked for before the Commission submits a report is quite sound.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I have to put supplementary question to Question No. 173. Am I to understand that you are taking all the questions together?

Mr. SPEAKER: No; not together, but the replies are the same. Therefore, I do not think Government will give any information to any supplementary question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My supplementary question will be that contrary to the reply that has been given to this question, Government specially the Chief Minister has indulged in public statements quite contrary to the spirit of these things. That is my point and I would ask supplementaries on that point.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not come within the purview of this question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: It comes, Sir. I shall put my question and if it does not come, he may not reply.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Are we to understand that we cannot put any question and get any reply in connection with the incidents which took place during the last six or seven months?

Mr. SPEAKER: That I do not know. So far as the questions which are before us today are concerned, I think it is in the interests of the Province that the information asked for should not be given publicly at the present moment.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, let me then put my supplementary questions and if you find any of them out of order, you will rule it out. My supplementary question to Question No. 173 would be if it is not a fact

that the ~~non-*me* *emer*~~ Minister in his reply to a statement made by Mr. Niharendu Dutt Mazumdar said that he actually was in the Lal Bazar police-station at the time in question.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this House?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes, Sir, in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not quite follow the question.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My question is in connection with Question No. 173(a), viz., whether the Hon'ble Minister was present at Lalbazar Police headquarters at a certain time and on a certain date and the reply is that Government is not prepared to answer it in view of the importance of this matter and in view of the fact that the matter is *sub judice*. On another occasion the Hon'ble Minister said another thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this House?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the constitution of the Enquiry Commission?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: No, Sir. After the constitution of the Commission. My question is whether this question so replied does not militate against the reply to the question that has been given now.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is not present here, but I can tell the House this much that when better sense prevails later on, Government may revise its answer.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: In view of the remarks made by the Chairman of the Enquiry Commission the other day, viz., that no useful purpose will be served by an enquiry and that the parties should not press for the continuance of the Commission, and by the time the Commission finally decide whether they should continue or not, the Assembly may be prorogued and we may be deprived of the privilege of putting questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can put fresh questions.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: The fact that it involves the welfare of this province is also another important matter, and that is why I raise this question. The Commissioner of Police is imposing collective fines on the ground that, whereas he is of opinion that such and such a thing has happened, and this may prejudice the case—

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Does it arise?

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not arise.

Thus we have disposed of Questions Nos. 169 to 173.

Arrests in connection with recent Calcutta riots.

*170. **Mr. RAMHARI ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of persons so far arrested in connection with the Calcutta riots that took place from 16th August to 19th August, 1946, and afterwards with regard to different crimes;
- (b) how many of them are Hindus, and how many are Muslims; and
- (c) out of the arrested persons how many Hindus have been granted bail and how many Muslims have been released on bail and how many are still in police custody?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME-DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): Government is not prepared to answer this question until the work of the Calcutta Riots Enquiry Commission is completed.

***171. Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

- (a) of the persons arrested and confined in connection with the recent Calcutta riots, how many are Muslims and how many Hindus, and how many Muslims and how many Hindus have since been released on bail;
- (b) how many Hindu homes and how many Muslim homes were searched in connection with the riots;
- (c) whether it is a fact that no search list is being prepared after search and no receipt given for the articles taken away by the police;
- (d) whether it is a fact that 80 to 100 Muslims were confined in lock-ups which could not accommodate more than 20; and
- (e) how many Muslims were arrested and confined and in which thana on 25th, 26th and 27th August, 1946?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Government is not prepared to answer this question until the work of the Calcutta Riots Enquiry Commission is completed.

Number of casualties in Calcutta riots.

***172. Mr. NARENDRA SINCH SINCHI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state what was the actual number of casualties, dead and injured, in the Calcutta riots which took place between August 16 to 19, 1946?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Government is not prepared to answer the question until the work of the Calcutta Disturbances Enquiry Commission is completed.

Presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister at Lalbazar Police Headquarters on 16th August, 1946.

***173. Mr. NARENDRA SINCH SINCHI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether he was present at Lalbazar Police Headquarters at 2 p.m. on Friday the 16th August, 1946?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he heard any shouts of hooligans and riotous mobs and the crash of house-breaking coming from the Tirettabazar area which is only 100 yards from the Police Headquarters?

(c) If the reply to (b) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he issued any orders to the police to put down the riots and bring the situation under control?

(d) Is it a fact that no police help came to the Tirettabazar area in spite of continued plunder, murder and fighting there on the 16th and 17th August?

(e) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he or anybody in authority issued any circular putting the area out of bounds for the police for those days?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Government is not prepared to answer the question until the work of the Calcutta Disturbances Enquiry Commission is completed.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Filling up of the post of Deputy Director of Publicity (Distribution).

59. Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Publicity) Department be pleased to state why the post of a Deputy Director of this Department occupied by a Muslim has been lying vacant for a long time?

MINISTER in charge of the CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): The post of Deputy Director of Publicity (Distribution) has been held by Muslim officers from time to time. It has been vacant since 13th January, 1947, and the question of filling it up substantively, in the light of departmental requirements, is under examination.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why this post was kept vacant till now?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I would refer the honourable member to my answer. The present incumbent—the Director of Publicity—has only joined on 13th of January, and the matter is being examined by him.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: I mean the post of Deputy Director and not Director—why the post of Deputy Director has been kept vacant?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Because the matter is being considered by the Director himself, namely, whether the post of Deputy Director should continue or not, or if he should continue, whether there should be one Deputy Director or two, and things like that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is reserved for a Muslim?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: As far as possible, yes.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many posts there are in the superior cadre in the Publicity Department, and how many of them are reserved for Hindus and how many for Muslims?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Deputy Directors there are in the Department?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: At present one.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government that the Director himself should select the Deputy Director and not the Public Service Commission?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: The whole question of the Publicity Department is being considered and along with it the question whether there should be one Deputy Director or two.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to which community the Director belongs?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Muslim.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is a native of Bengal?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was his predecessor?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Mr. Mathur.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why an outsider was brought in as Director? Was no suitable candidate belonging to either community of this province was available?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: That is a matter of opinion.

(Voices: It cannot be said to be a matter of opinion.)

Mr. S. A. SALIM: He is the best man available as far as Muslim community is concerned.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the Director who had just left? Was he Mr. Bhatia?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Before Mr. Mathur was Mr. Bhatia.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the post of Director is reserved for Muslim?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ghose, from Deputy Director you have concentrated on Director.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Since the Hon'ble Minister mentioned him I had to refer to him, otherwise I would not have done.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the Deputy Director and the Director and their qualifications?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Mr. Anwar Hossain was appointed Deputy Director on 13th January, and when the new Director of Publicity joined Mr. Mathur reverted to his substantive post as Deputy Director, Publicity. As far as qualifications are concerned I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any posts are reserved by name for any particular community?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: Not by name, but according to Communal Ratio Rules.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say if the post of Deputy Director was advertised before it was filled up?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I think it was advertised.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি--এতদিন ধরে যে Deputy Director-এর পদ খালি আছে তাতে Publicity Department এর কাজের কোন কতি হচ্ছে কিনা?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: No.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি--এতদিন ধরে পদ খালি থাকায় কাজের যদি কোন কতি না হয় তাহলে সরকারী উদ্বিগ্নের এতটাকা খরচ করে নতুন লোক আনবার কি প্রয়োজন আছে?

Mr. S. A. SALIM: I have already stated that the matter is being examined by the Director of Publicity.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many years the post of Director of Publicity was occupied by non-Bengalis?

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall not allow any more question on the Director, because the main question is about Deputy Director.

Withdrawal of case against Abani Maity of Contai by Superintendent of Police, Midnapore.

60. Mr. SERAJUDDIN AHMED (Midnapore): (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

- (i) that the Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, got the case withdrawn against Abani Maity of Contai who trespassed into the residence of Maulvi Fazlul Karim, Lawyer-Magistrate of Contai, and threatened him with a gun;
 - (ii) that the case was supervised by another police officer of Imperial rank and charge-sheet was submitted after due investigation;
 - (iii) that the case was withdrawn by the Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, without any inquiry made by himself or through any other officer; and
 - (iv) that the said Abani Maity has brought a civil suit against the said complainant after the withdrawal of the case?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of proceeding further against the said Abani Maity?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a)(i), (ii) and (iv) Yes.

(iii) He looked into the case before applying for its withdrawal under section 494, Criminal Procedure Code.

(b) No.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why prosecution was not afforded an opportunity to establish its case against Maity in Court?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because the Superintendent of Police thought that it was not good enough to go to Court.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the grounds for the withdrawal of the case?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Because in the opinion of the Superintendent of Police the case was not such that it should be prosecuted by the Crown.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this Lawyer-Magistrate was not in the good book of the Subdivisional Officer, Contai?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: That I do not know.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Mr. Maity was the landlord of this Lawyer-Magistrate?

Mr. NASARULLA: Government has no such information.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: What information Government has?

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Officer, Contai, asked Mr. Maity to take the law in his hands and oust the Lawyer-Magistrate?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I think it is not correct.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the report submitted by the police was tampered in Court?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no such information.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it was found that the case was a concocted one?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have said that in the opinion of the Superintendent of Police the case was not such that it should be prosecuted.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the reasons given by the Superintendent of Police while asking for permission for the withdrawal of the case?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: The Superintendent of Police's opinion was that the case was not such that it should be prosecuted.

Mr. MAJIBAR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any application was submitted by the complainant to withdraw the case?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, I don't think so.

Mr. MAJIBAR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether before the withdrawal of the case by the Superintendent of Police any approval of the District Magistrate was sought for?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Must have been.

Mr. MAJIBAR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Superintendent of Police was within his jurisdiction to withdraw the case *suo motu*?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: He was.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what Mr. Abam Marty is doing? What is he?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I have no information.

Mr. SPEAKER: All these questions relate to the institution of a case in a criminal Court and Mr. Nasarulla is not expected to be conversant with the procedure. I think, it is a question on a general subject and not with regard to the intricate procedure in a criminal Court.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, Mr. Nasarulla occupied the post of Honorary Superintendent of Police, Dacca, and so I think he knows all the details.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Do the Government propose to take any action against the investigating officer, the Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, who submitted the charge-sheet which could not stand scrutiny in a Court of law?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKUNUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to furnish the name of the Superintendent of Police?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Mr. Pollard.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of enquiring into the case *de novo*?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: No, Sir.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether witnesses were examined before the submission of the charge-sheet to the Court?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I suppose they were, otherwise the charge-sheet could not have been submitted.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many witnesses were examined before the case was submitted to the Court?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of too much detail.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: I want notice.

Casualties in Bengal from explosives left by Allied armies or enemies.

61. Mr. MD. HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department be pleased to state—

- (a) how many persons have been (i) killed and (ii) maimed after the cessation of hostilities in different districts of Bengal by ammunition, bombs and other explosives left by Allied armies or enemies;
- (b) whether any compensation has been given to these people or their relatives; if not, why not;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that some persons have been killed and injured in Noakhali, Nadia and Burdwan recently by handling of such ammunition and bombs; and
- (d) if so, what steps Government have taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a)(i) Eight and (ii) 16 according to information now in Government's possession.

(b) The information is being collected. Claims for such compensation were to be dealt with by the Claims Commission set up by the Government of India.

(c) Yes, as far as Noakhali is concerned. No reports of such incidents have been received from Nadia or Burdwan.

(d) During the war, arrangements were made for the detection and disposal of such articles. There were special military disposal squads. Selected police parties trained in detection and reconnaissance work were posted in every area where there was any likelihood of such things being dropped.

All District Officers were instructed in April, 1944, to warn villagers by beat of drum of the danger of handling such articles and the necessity of reporting their discovery to the police. A Press-note was also issued on the subject on the 9th August, 1946.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the police party's training in detection and reconnaissance work is no more in existence after the cessation of the war?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes; it is not in existence now.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason for the discontinuance of such police training?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Because of the non-occurrence of such incidents.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how does he reconcile the fact that incidents are really occurring as is evident from answer (a) and his subsequent statement that incidents are not occurring?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Up to a certain period of time they occurred, but not now.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: With regard to question (c), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that recently there was a raid by soldiers at the Panagar Base on the adjoining villages as a result of which several villagers were injured?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no such information.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will be pleased to enquire into the matter?

Mr. ABUL KARIM: If a request is made to enquire into the matter, it may be done.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that five persons were killed and one injured in a single family by the explosion of something like a bomb in G-plot of the Sundarbans area in the Mathurapur thana of the Diamond Harbour subdivision?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, the question relates to Noakhali, Nadia and Furdwan; so I am not in a position to say what took place in 24-Parganas.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: If a request is made, it will be done.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the people are to know that bombs are there, especially as the rural people are ignorant of these bombs?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: They were warned to be careful in dealing with things which they did not know or had not seen.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is of opinion that such explosions occurred as a result of an organised attempt to capture the dumps that were left by the military?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a Press report that large military dumps have been passing into the hands of private bodies?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why information was not collected when the incidents took place last year?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The fact is that the answer to this question was long overdue. I asked the department to send the answers to the Legislative Assembly Department on informations so far received and in the meantime, I gave reminders to the District Magistrates concerned to send further detailed informations. In the meanwhile I got some informations from the Collector of Noakhali.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has any information as to whether all bombs have by this time been removed or are they still in existence in the dumps?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what does he mean by saying, no;—I want to know whether the bombs are there or whether they have not made an enquiry?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government have no such information.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether up till now any compensation has been paid to the relatives of the persons killed or to the persons maimed as a result of bomb explosions?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: In which place?

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: In Noakhali?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No compensation has been paid.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the reply to (a)(i) is for the whole of Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it refers to the whole of Bengal. The question was—how many persons have been (i) killed, and (ii) maimed after the cessation of hostilities in different districts of Bengal by ammunitions, bombs and other explosives left by Allied armies or enemies;—so I think the reply covers the whole of Bengal.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry, Sir; it refers to the whole of Bengal.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Claims Commission has done anything up till now in connection with the payment of compensation?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have no information about that. All persons concerned were to bring the matter to the notice of the District Magistrates or to the Claims Commission. If they have not done so, it was not the fault of Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if any agency was set up for detecting and discovering these ammunitions and other things which were dangerous to human beings in general?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The local officers were asked to deal with them.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if any reports were submitted by those agencies to the Government giving details of those things and suggestions for removing the explosive substances still remaining there?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have not got the report with me; I have got reports from places where incidents occurred.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Arising out of answer (c), namely, that no reports of such incidents have been received from Nadia or Burdwan, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the newspapers published news relating to persons killed in Nadia and Burdwan?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I am sorry I have got no information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to ask for reports as to whether there are still any bombs or ammunition or anything of that kind remaining unremoved from all the areas in the province?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think the instruction to all local officers was to remove such things and to report such cases if they were brought to their notice. Therefore any further instruction seems unnecessary.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: In connection with the bombs and ammunitions found out in the district of Noakhali will the

Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these bombs were dropped from British planes or these bombs were dropped from Japanese planes just at the time of the war, or they came floating from the steamer or submarine?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It cannot be said how these bombs were thrown there but the only thing that can be said is that they were there and some incidents took place. That far I can say.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he can imagine how many bombs just at the present moment are lying in the district of Noakhali and other places?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think any bomb is lying there.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: In reference to answer (a)(i) and (a)(ii) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these numbers include the cases mentioned by me in my supplementary question about Diamond Harbour subdivision?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, it includes the whole of the province.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability of actually paying compensation and it means business so far as payment of compensation is concerned?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Payment of compensation was the concern of the Government of India in these cases. The Government of India appointed a Claims Commission to deal with these cases and the District Magistrates were asked to help them and to bring to their notice any such cases deserving compensation and also on their own motion they could bring to the notice of the Claims Commission, those cases which they thought desirable.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARKA NATH BARORI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,32,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue".

Point of Privilege.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: On a point of privilege, Sir. I have just now received a slip from an honourable member of this House putting a supplementary question. Probably he means to say that this will be taken as notice by Government. I am sorry I will not be prepared to accept it for further information.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a private arrangement because no question can be put except through the Chair.

Mr. PRAVASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of converting the existing following *kancha* roads into motorable roads in the district of Rajshahi:—

- (1) Road from Saraswatipur to Mahadevpur.
- (2) Road from Charghat to Arani.
- (3) Road from Ataikula to Singra.
- (4) Road from Balihar to Badalgachi.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the urgency of constructing roads between the places named below in want of which those portions in the district of Rajshahi remain unconnected and uncommunicative with their respective administrative headquarters, thus giving opportunity to the bad characters to thrive unhampered:—

- (1) Road between Nawhata and Manda.
- (2) Road between Nachol and Niamatpur.
- (3) Road between Niamatpur and Rohonpur.
- (4) Road between Nanda and Naogaon.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiry, will you not speak on your motions?

Mr. PRAVASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: I will not speak for the cut motions.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: It has been arranged that I shall speak generally and the other members who have been given time will draw attention to the specific roads.

Mr. SPEAKER: They will simply move?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Or speak for two minutes

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the apathy of the Government for immediate construction of a hanging bridge over the river Sylva at Ghatal in the district of Midnapore.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি এই হ'লিই প্রস্তাব সঙ্গত্বে কয়েকটা কথা বলতে চাই। আমি যে সেতুটির কথা বলতে যাচ্ছি, তার প্রয়োজনীয়তার বিষয় এই অল্প দুমিনিটে বলা যায় না। মেদিনীপুর জেলার অন্তর্গত খালি মহকুমার খালি সাউনের উপর Govt. Subdivisional Headquarters স্থাপিত। বেগমতী শিলাইতলী নদ এই খালি সাউনটিকে দু'ভাগে বিভক্ত করে যাবৎসময়ে স্থানিত হচ্ছে। এই নদীর দক্ষিণ কূলে অবস্থিত আছে সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি, যথা—Civil Court, Criminal Court, Post and Telegraph office, Sub-Treasury, জেলখানা, সাতরা-চিকিৎসালয়, High English School ইত্যাদি এবং বাম তীরে অবস্থিত হাট বাজার, police station, motor Bus station, উদ্দেশ্যে বড় বড় শোকাণ প্রভৃতি। এই বিখ্যাত নদীর সত্বেই একটি ক্ষীণ ভাসাপুল (pontoon bridge) দ্বারা সংযুক্ত। উক্ত কাঠের সেতুটী স্থানীয় খালি মিউনিসিপ্যালিটি দ্বারা রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ হয়ে থাকে। মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির ক্ষুদ্র আয় দ্বারা উক্ত সেতুটী রক্ষা করা ক্রমশঃ দুঃস্থ হয়ে উঠেছে। বর্ধাকালে উক্ত নদীসকল ফাঁড় হয়ে জনবাহি যখন প্রবল বেগে স্থানিত হয়, তখন প্রবল স্রোতের চাপে সেতুটী ভিস্তি হয়ে ভেঙ্গে চলে যায়, জনসাধারণের তখন লোকপ বিপদ উপস্থিত হয়। সরকারী কর্মচারিগণের সম্বন্ধে যাত্রায়াত্র, হাটবাজারে গমনাগমন, পুলিশ কর্মপক্ষে পারাপার হওয়া বহু অন্বিগ্ন হয়ে থাকে। মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির কর্মপক্ষে আর বেশীকাল এই সেতুটী রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করতে পারবে না। তাই এই বিষয়ে সচী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করে আমি আমার হ'লিই প্রস্তাবটি পরিষদে প্রহনের জন্য উপস্থাপিত করলাম।

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government for making provision for the improvement of the Sathkhira-Itinda Road in the district of Khulna.

Sir, it is a very important road of the Khulna district and having a very heavy traffic on account of its being the only bus route from Calcutta to Sathkhira. Sir, the other day the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Works and

Buildings admitted on the floor of this House that this road is reported to have been damaged. This road, Sir, is very badly damaged and it requires immediate attention of the authorities for its improvement and repairs. Happily, Sir, the other day the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government Department informed this House that a sum of Rs. 36 lakhs is available for distribution to local bodies for repairs of their roads. I would only urge upon Government now to distribute this amount and allocate considerable sums to the District Board of Khulna for expenditure on its roads, so that the inconvenience suffered by the public is removed. In the rainy season the bus service has got to be stopped on account of the roads being impassable for buses to the great inconvenience of the public.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about failure to implement the Road Plan drawn up by Bengal before war.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the means of putting into effect the Development Programme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been a long standing grievance of this province that the roads in Bengal are insufficient and unsatisfactory. The war traffic and non-repair during the period of the war have reduced the roads to a wretched condition, and they are a standing nuisance at the present moment. Everyone knows, Sir, whether it is a road in the city of Calcutta or the feeder roads or the provincial highways, these are full of ruts and ditches, and the greatest inconvenience is suffered travelling on these roads, and I should say risk is involved in travelling over those roads in Bengal.

Sir, it must be admitted, and I do not think that it can be questioned, that roads are necessary to help trade and industry in the province; roads are necessary from the headquarters to the remotest corner for the purpose of efficient administration of the country; roads are necessary for better social contacts and for other improvements. Though it is an undeniable fact, yet what do we find? The budget estimates do not take much notice of these dire necessities of this province. Sir, I do not know whether because of the fact that the Chief Minister and most of his colleagues now travel by air that they have got out of touch with the deplorable condition of the roads. Therefore, Sir, there are some cut motions which will be moved on this side only to remind them about those specific roads. But what passes beyond one's comprehension is: have not the present Ministry heard of King's Plan—about 200 years planning for development of roads in Bengal? I do not mean "planned by the King-Emperor of India". I mean by a servant of the Public Works Department who had made comprehensive planning for the purpose of improvement of road communications. We do not find any reference in the budget estimates or in the speeches about that plan. Sir, if the Ministry would care to look at this plan they will find that they need not be afraid of taking up those works, because the details of the plan have been laid down. I find that the Ministry is totally ignoring King's Plan which was made for Bengal and are not doing anything. You know, Sir, that we receive from the Road Fund a very substantial grant, and it is to our great shame that this province has not been able to utilise the amount that is given to it from the Central fund. It has been admitted that Rs. 8 lakhs out of this Central fund remains unutilised. Why is this so? There is the policy, the plan and the detailed estimates given there. I think, Sir, one knows that if this road work is undertaken a good deal of relief will come to the rural workers for road building. Yet we do not find that anything is being done.

Sir, there is one road about which we have been clamouring for a very long time—the Dacca-Aricha road. If that road is built, one could reach from the other side Goalundo to Dacca, a distance of 52 miles, in about three hours, whereas you have got to spend the better part of a day in going around and you have got to pay a company, namely, the I. G. S. N. Company. Vested interests ought not to stand in the way now. At least for the present the Treasury benches have become independent of European votes. Why cannot they take up this road, it is very difficult to understand. Moreover it appears that the Ministry has got a knack of putting the cart before the horse. They will provide for establishment expenses without first of all settling the work and the plan and the policy to execute the work. They will provide for expenses of buying jeeps without providing for the roads over which they would run. I ask that the Ministry must revise this policy, must change this policy; they must do what is necessary to be done first and cannot possibly be allowed to waste their money in providing for establishment and staff and not doing the work. At page 458 of the green book in the detailed accounts, I suppose there is a cryptic statement. Sir, in this connection I ought to state that the information in the red book as also in the green book is becoming more and more meagre. It is stated that for the construction and improvement of national highways a provision is made of Rs. 1,07,00,000 and odd and then recovery from the Central fund is Rs. 1,47,00,000. Therefore it appears that when Rs. 1,47,00,000 is available this Ministry is providing for Rs. 1,07,00,000, I mean provision on paper, but there is no scheme and policy to execute the work. The roads are in a wretched condition as I have said. People of this province have great difficulties to move about and the Ministry has no justification having the means and having a plan ready not to embark upon it, not to take up that work without delay, and by doing so they are showing how unmindful they are of the interests of the masses.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about necessity of improving some roads in Dacca district namely, road (i) from Munshiganj to Digbarpar, (ii) Munshiganj to Srinagar, and (iii) Mirkadim to Bajrajogini.

I further move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about necessity of construction of a motorable road from Dacca to Aricha.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about failure to construct a motorable road from Plassey to Meherpur.

সি: শ্রীকার, স্যার, এখানে কিছু বলা অনেকটা অবশ্যে সোচ্চন করা। আর এটা যে রাস্তা এবং এটের যে গোঁয়াটা তা রাস্তা-ঘাটের অবস্থা থেকেই বেশ বোঝা যায়। India Government যে টাকা দিয়েছিলেন তা পর্যাপ্ত তাঁরা ব্যয় করতে পারেন নাই। এটা পারেন কেবল নব্বের রাস্তা তৈরী করতে, দেশের রাস্তা নয়। আরি এখানে একটা রাস্তার কথাই বলছি সেটা পলাশী-মেহেরপুর রাস্তা। এই রাস্তা বড় জেলার লোকট নামটার ক'রে থাকে। নগীরা, বৃন্দিশাবাদ, এমনকি পূর্ববঙ্গের যে সকল লোক বেলভাঙ্গার দাঁটে আসে তাদেরও এই রাস্তা দিয়েই রাস্তাঘাট করতে হয়। আপনারা জানেন এখানে হরিব্রহ্মচর্যের বেলা হতে সারা গঙ্গা এবং হরিষ নিয়ে বেলভাঙ্গা হয়ে পূর্ববঙ্গ যায় তারা রাসাশাট দূরে পোহালান হয়ে যেতে চায় না, সবাই এই রাস্তা দিয়েই যায়। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয়, এই রাস্তা motorable হওয়া তো দুঃখের কথা, বাসঘ বেটে গেলেও টোঁচট যায়। বর্ষাকালে এই রাস্তার যাত্রাবাহের কঠোর অস্ত থাকে না, কবে বন্যায় ভল এসে এবার এই রাস্তা ভেঙেছে কিন্তু তা আর বেরানত হ'ল না। যে চারটা পুল ভেঙেছে অতঃ সেই কলটি যদি বেরানত করে দিতেন তাও কিছু হ'ত। বর্ষাকালে এসব পুল

পাঁচ হওঁ এক অসম্ভব ব্যাপার। নৌকার কোন ব্যবস্থা থাকে না। কোথাও গোঁপাল কাছা করতে হয়, কোথাও এক বুক, কোথাও এক গলা জল। এই রকমভাবে $\frac{2}{8}$ মাইল পার হতে হয়। স্বর্গীয় আচার্য্য প্রকম চন্দ্র রায় একবার এই রাস্তা দিয়ে সাবার সময় বলেছিলেন “কলিকাতা হতে বিলাত যেতে যে কষ্ট না পেয়েছি তার চেয়ে বেশী কষ্ট এখানে পেলার”। সেতো তবু শীতকালে, বর্ষাকালে নয়। অথচ গভর্ণমেন্ট এর কোন ব্যবস্থা করতে পারছেন না, এবং ময়মনসিংহের যোগাযোগ আমরা বেশ বুঝতে পারছি। এই রাস্তাটির উপরের পুলগুলি অত্যন্ত বেরাভের ব্যবস্থা করে দিলে নদীয়া, মুন্সিগঞ্জের যে সমস্ত লোক এই রাস্তায় যাবার সময় বাংলা সরকারকে গালাগালি করতে করতে গান অস্তুত সেটা হতে রেহাই পেতেন।

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads “50—Civil Works” and “81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue” be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the immediate necessity of improving the Kandi-Radharghat Road in the district of Murshidabad.

Sir, I completely endorse the remarks made by the previous speaker with this addition that if this Ministry is making any road it is preparing the road for hell but that is a big matter. I would now refer to a very small matter which the Ministry might feel disposed to consider. Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Ministry to the state of the Kandi-Radharghat Road which serves 454 square miles with a population of 355,000. That is, Sir, the only road and the only link with the railway and the world outside, but unfortunately this road is breached with the result that there has been a necessity of transhipment of buses—passengers, and people, even women, children and patients, have to walk a distance of 6 or 7 miles in mud and slush, sun and rain. That is, Sir, the condition of this road and it is entirely due to the existence of a worthless, inefficient, I shall not say corrupt, District Board, as also to the existence of a worthless and inefficient, and I shall say, corrupt Public Waste Department popularly known as the P.W.D. which is now named C.W.D. i.e., Criminal Waste Department. I do not know if the Ministry would do something in the matter. So I move this cut motion, though not with much hope.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads “50—Civil Works” and “81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue” be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the necessity of converting the following district board roads into motorable concrete roads in the district of Mymensingh:—

- (1) Mymensingh-Muktagacha Road,
- (2) Muktagacha-Jamalpur Road,
- (3) Mymensingh-Trisal Road,
- (4) Mymensingh-Fulbaria Road,
- (5) Madhupur-Hemnagar Road,
- (6) Tangail-Mirjapur Road,
- (7) Jamalpur-Sherpur Road,
- (8) Shambhuganj-Haluaghat Road,
- (9) Iswarganj-Kishoreganj Road,
- (10) Shambhuganj-Iswarganj Road, and
- (11) Shambhuganj-Netrokona Road.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই পুস্তক উপস্থিত করবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমি এই কথা বলতে চাই যে, যে রাস্তাগুলির নাম এখানে করা হ’ল, সেই রাস্তাগুলিই এই জেলার একবার চলাচলের রাস্তা। মৈমনসিংহ জেলা বোর্ড এই রাস্তাগুলি সম্পর্কে যথাযথ ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করে থাকলেও আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে অর্ধভাব হেতু এই রাস্তাগুলি বেড়তে রাস্তা প্রয়োজন সেভাবে উঁচা রাখতে সমর্থ হ’নি। অথচ এই রাস্তাগুলিই হচ্ছে জনসাধারণের একমাত্র

সাতারাতের পথ। এখানে যারা বৈমন্সিংহের অধিবাসী আছেন তাঁরা জানেন বৈমন্সিংহ জেলায় কে পরিমাণ বিদ্যুত তাতে ভ্রমে হয় সারা বাংলায় কেন, সারা ভারতের মধ্যে একটি সবুজ ঘেঁষা। কিন্তু এই জেলার সবুজ রেল লাইন চলাচলের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। অনেক মহকুমার অভ্যন্তরে এবং গ্রামে চলাচল ও যাতায়াত করার এই উল্লিখিত পথ। জমিদারিত্বের পাবি না কেন এই পথগুলির ব্যয় উন্নতি সাধন করা হচ্ছে না। বৈমন্সিংহেও পুতৌক সম্পদ এ সম্বন্ধে সমাক্ষপণ করা হচ্ছে। জমিদারি না এই ব্যয়গুলির ব্যয় বন্ধ ও plan করা সম্পর্কে সেই সব সম্পদের কোন মতামত গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে কিনা, কিংবা কখনও তাহলে এ সম্বন্ধে (ভিজিট) করা হয়েছে কিনা। আপনাকে জানলে আশ্চর্য্য হবে যে, এতগুলি চলাচলের বাস্তব পথ। সম্বন্ধে সেগুলির উন্নতি সাধন না করে কেবল থেকে নতুন এক বাস্তব বৈমন্সিংহ পথ তৈরী করার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। এই বাস্তব পথের District Board এর বাস্তব পথ। সম্বন্ধে Government এমন এক কল্পনা। অবলম্বন করেছেন যার ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ ধান উৎপন্ন হবে এমন সব বড় ধানক্ষেত acquire করে বাস্তব তৈরী করার ব্যবস্থা করছেন এবং শত শত পরীক্ষারী গ্রহণের তিনমিনিট উৎসাহ করে সেখানে দিয়ে বৈমন্সিংহ সহর পথের বাস্তব নিশ্চয় করছেন। Mr. Speaker, আমি এই কক্ষে জানাতে চাই—বৈমন্সিংহের যারা সভা আছেন তাঁরা জানেন যে Government সেই plan অনুযায়ী যদি সত্যি কোন কাজ করেন, তাহলে দেখবেন হিন্দু-মুসলমান সকলে একসঙ্গে তাতে বাধা দেবে। কারণ এই plan-এর পিছনে কোন যুক্তি নাই এবং ইহার কোনও স্বার্থ কতটা নাই।

Mr. KANAILAL DASS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads “50—Civil Works” and “81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue” be reduced by Rs.100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the policy of Government regarding construction and improvement of Provincial Highways and to construct (a) Damodar river bridge on the Burdwan-Arambagh Road, (b) to convert the road between Bompas and Bhatar stations into motorable road, (c) to convert Burdwan-Arambagh Road, from the foot of Damodar bridge to Arambagh into motorable road.

মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, আমার cut motion এ আন্দোচা বিষয় অনেকগুলি আছে, কিন্তু সময়ের অভাব বশতঃ আমি যেগুলি অত্যন্ত দরকারী সেইগুলিই কেবল বলি। আমার প্রথম আন্দোচা বিষয় হইতেছে দামোদর নদীর উপর Anderson Bridge নিৰ্ম্মাণ সম্পর্কে।

মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, এই পরিকল্পিত ব্রীজ Burdwan-Arambagh বাস্তব উপর অবস্থিত এবং বর্ধমান নগর ও বর্ধমান জেলার সহিত দামোদর নদীর উপর পাবে তিনটি থানা, যথা, শতকোষ, রায়না ও ভাঙ্গালপুরের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতেছে। Burdwan-Arambagh Road এবং Anderson Bridge, ই কেবল একটি রাস্তা পথ যাহার দ্বারা বর্ধমান জেলার সহিত ভগবানী, আবদারবাগ ও বাকুড়া জেলার সহিত যোগ বন্ধ করিতেছে। এই ব্রীজ এবং বাস্তব বর্ধমান নগরের নিকট Grand Trunk Road এর সহিত যুক্ত হইয়া বাংলা দেশবাসীর পক্ষে বর্ধমান হইয়া উক্ত জেলার যাইবার পথ তখন করিয়াছে। মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, বর্তমান পূর্ণ, Sir John Anderson-এর সময় হইতে Damodar Bridge পরিকল্পিত হইয়া আছে, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আজ পর্যন্ত তাহার কোনও বাস্তব রূপ দান করা হয় নাই। বর্ধমান জেলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক এই একটি মা এ পথ দিয়া সৈনিক যাতায়াত করে। ব্রীজ তৈয়ারী না হওয়াতে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে বেঘাণটি দিয়া প্রায় দুই মাইল পথ দামোদর নদীর উপর দিয়া অতিক্রম করিতে হয়। অর্ধেক পথ কোমল অথবা জলের উপর দিয়া ও অর্ধেক পথ উত্তপ্ত বাহির উপর দিয়া মাইতে হয়। কি নীত, কি প্রিয়, বর্ধমান জেলাবাসী স্ত্রী, পুরুষ, বালক, বালিকাগণকে এই একমাত্র পথ দিয়া মাইতে হয় এবং তাহাতে তাহাদের অসীম দুঃখ কষ্টের সীমা থাকে না। বর্ধমান জেলায় এই বেঘাণটি দিয়া মাওয়া একেবারেই অসম্ভব হয়। বর্ধমান জেলায় ইতিমধ্যে থানার সহিত বর্ধমান জেলার সহিত শ্রী সম্পূর্ণ যোগাযোগ চিন্ন হইয়া যায়। মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, Damodar Bridge নির্মাণ বিষয়ে Red-book হইতে জানিতে পারি যে গভর্নমেন্ট ২৯,৩২,০০০ টাকা মতুর করিয়াছে এবং এই টাকা হইতে 31st March 1946 পর্যন্ত ১,৫৩,০০০ টাকা বরচ করিয়াছেন। এছাড়া গত বঙ্গবরের জন্য ১,০০০ টাকা এবং বঙ্গবঙ্গের জন্য ৫,০০০ টাকা ব্যয় মতুর করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু অত্যন্ত দুঃখের ও লজ্জার বিষয় যে আজ পর্যন্ত এই ব্রীজ নির্মাণের নিকট কোনও bridge construction-এর কোনও চিহ্ন দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় না। তিনিয়াছিল Anderson Bridge প্রচেষ্টা দ্বিবে একটা বড় পাথর বদান হইয়াছিল, কিন্তু এখন তাহারও কোন চিহ্ন দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় না। তবে কি আমাদের ব্রীজে হইবে এই ১,৫৪,০০০ টাকা। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী বহাণের তাহাদের পক্ষে বরচর জন্য ব্যয় করিয়াছেন? গভর্নমেন্টের কার্যকলাপের ইচ্ছা একটি উজ্জল দৃষ্টি। গভর্নমেন্ট দেশের লোকের প্রতি সহানুভূতিশীলতা ও তাহাদের দুঃখ কষ্টের প্রতি সম্পূর্ণ উপাশীনতার পরিচয় দিচ্ছেন।

বর্ধমানের জনসেতা শ্রীযুক্ত যাদবেন্দ্র নাথ পাঁজা মহাশয় গত বৎসর ঐ বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়াছিলেন, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেন্ট সে বিষয়ে দৃষ্টিপাত বা কর্ণপাত কিবা তাহার কোন উত্তর দেন নাই। আশা করি মহাশয় মহাশয় তাঁহার concluding speech দিবার সময় ১,৫৪,০০০ টাকা কি কারণে ব্যয় করিয়াছেন তাহা জানাইবেন। মহাশয় মহাশয়ের যে অসুঃকরণ আছে এবং তাঁহারও বেরক্তবাংসের শরীর তাঁহার পরিচয় দিবেন। মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, আমার দ্বিতীয় বিষয় হটতেছে Burdwan-Arambagh Road, এই রাস্তাটিকে বাস্তবিক Provincial Highway বলা চলে। এই রাস্তা দিয়া প্রত্যহ হাজার হাজার লোক যাতায়াত করে কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত গভর্ণমেন্ট লামোলের নদীদ্বার দশ মাইল পর্যন্ত কোনও উন্নতি করেন নাই। প্রথম কয়েক মাইল অতি পুরাতন জীর্ণ অবস্থায় আছে। রাস্তা বড় বড় গর্ত ও নালা এবং এক টাটু ধুলায় পূর্ণ। বর্ষাকালে লোক চলাচলের সম্পূর্ণ অনুপযুক্ত হয়। ঐ রাস্তায় অতি পুরাতন অর্ধভঙ্গ অবস্থায় কতকগুলি ব্রীজ আছে, তাহার সংস্কার আজও পর্যন্ত হয় নাই। গভর্ণমেন্ট Road Development Fund হটতে প্রতি বৎসর কোটি কোটি টাকা ব্যয় করিতেছেন কিন্তু এরূপ একটা জনসাধারণের অতি প্রয়োজনীয় রাস্তার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট কিছুই করেন নাই। গভর্ণমেন্ট এই রাস্তা দশ মাইল হইতে বাইশ মাইল পর্যন্ত তৈয়ারী করিতেছেন, কিন্তু লামোল নদীর দ্বার হটতে প্রথম দশ মাইলের মধ্যে কিছুই করেন নাই। আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট যখন উক্ত রাস্তা নিশ্চাণ কাষে লিপ্ত আছেন তখন লামোলদ্বার তীর হটতে নিশ্চাণ কার্য আরম্ভ করিবেন।

মিঃ শ্রীকার, স্যার, আমার তৃতীয় বিষয় হটতেছে Bhatar Station হটতে Bonpas Station পর্যন্ত motorable রাস্তা তৈয়ারী করা। কাণথ এটি একটা প্রধান রাস্তা এবং ইহাকে District Major Road বলা চলে ইহা আউলগ্রাম থানা, ভাতার থানা এবং মহেশপুর থানার সহিত সংযোগ বন্ধা করিতেছে।

আমি পূর্ণে এই রাস্তা সংস্কারের জন্য বলিয়াছিলাম কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত গভর্ণমেন্ট এ বিষয়ে কর্ণপাত করেন নাই। আমি আশা করি এ বৎসর গভর্ণমেন্ট এ বিষয়ে হস্তক্ষেপ করবেন, এবং সাধারণের অর্থ নিচ্ছেদের আদায় কিংবা দলপাত লোকসেব মনোরঞ্জনর জন্য ব্যয় না করিয়া, দেশের জনসাধারণের প্রকৃত উপকার এবং মজলের জন্য সাহায্য ব্যয় হয় তাহা লক্ষ্য রাখিবেন। এই কথা বলিয়া আমি আমার cut motion উপস্থাপন করিতেছি এবং আশা করি হাউস আমাকে সমর্থন করিবেন।

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the miserable condition of the following district board roads and necessity of their improvement:—(1) Biruha to Savar, (2) Dhamrai to Kaliakair, (3) Rajendrapur to Kapasia, (4) Narsingdi to Kaliganj, (5) Kaliganj to Tangi, (6) Jinardi to Madhabdi and (7) Mirkadim to Bajrajogini.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, ঢাকা জিলার গ্রামাঞ্চলে যীরা জাননি তাঁরা ঢাকার রাস্তার দুর্বস্থার কথা বল্পা করতে পারবেন না। শুকনো দিনেও এই সকল রাস্তায় অসতর্ক হয়ে চলতে গেলে পড়ে যেতে হয়। এইভাবে পড়ে অনেকে আহত হয়েছে। বর্ষাকালে তা' চলা একেবারে অসম্ভব হয়ে পড়ে। বর্ষার দিনে কাপড় উকনা নিয়ে চলা যায় না। সজে করে গামছা নিতে হয়। তা না হ'লে সমস্ত কাপড় চোপড় ভিজে যায়। ঢাকার রাস্তার এমন দুরবস্থা হয়েছে। রাস্তা থেকে পড়ে মাঝে মাঝে লোক আহত হ'চ্ছে। আমার শুনেছি আমার বন্ধু নিশীথ বাবু বলেছেন দিনাজপুরে একটা National Highway আছে। সেটা বর্তমানে প্রাণনাশক হয়ে দাড়িয়েছে। কিছুদিন পূর্বে সে রাস্তার একজন মানুষ ও কয়েকটা মহিমা পড়ে মারা গিয়েছে। দিনাজপুরে একটা মাত্র রাস্তার অবস্থা এই রকম আর ঢাকা জিলার রাস্তাগুলির প্রত্যেকটি সে অবস্থায় পরিণত হয়েছে। আমি জানি না ঢাকার District Board কিবা গভর্ণমেন্ট এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু করা সরকার মনে করেন কিনা। গভর্ণমেন্ট জনসাধারণের কাছ থেকে ট্যাক্স আদায় করে থাকেন অথচ তাদের কাছে সর্বপ্রকার ঊশারীনা দেখান। আমি আশা করি বর্তমান বহিঃ-বণ্টনী জনসাধারণের এই দুর্দশা দূর করার জন্য এই রাস্তাগুলির সংস্কারের দিকে মন দিবেন এবং অবিলম্বে এই সকল রাস্তার যে সমস্ত ভারগা ভেঙে গিয়েছে সেগুলি বেরান্ড করে দিবেন।

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced Rs. 100. The

reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to construct a bridge over Darakeswar river near Bankura or Bankura-Taldangra Road.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, ইতিপূর্বে আনন্দের শ্রদ্ধেয় বন্ধু শ্রীযুক্ত গুপ্ত মহাশয় যেরূপ বলেছেন যে এই সরকার রাস্তা তৈরী না করে জীপ গাড়ী কিনেছেন আরিও তৈরী বললো যে সকল বড় বড় নদী দেশের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চল থেকে জলাকে এবং বিভিন্ন খানা থেকে সম্বন্ধে বিচ্ছিন্ন করে বেছেছে, সেই সমস্ত নদীর উপর সেতু নিৰ্মাণ না করে সরকার নদীর অপর পারে বড় বড় রাস্তা তৈরী কৰছেন। ঝাঁকুড়া জিলায় ঠিক তাই হয়েছে। একটা Provincial Highway ঝাঁকুড়া জিলায় বাস্তবানুবিদ্যে চলে গেছে। ঝাঁকুড়ায় আরও দুটো রাস্তাকে সম্পূর্ণাধিত করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু ঝাঁকুড়া সম্বন্ধে অপরাধের খানায় যাবার মাঝখানে যে নদী আছে, যারেকেশ্বর, তার উপর কোন সেতু নিৰ্মাণ করবার ব্যবস্থা এখনো হয় নাই। এই ঝাঁকুড়া জিলায় সিমলাপাল, বাইপুর, রাণীবাঁধ, লক্ষপুর, বাগড়া, তালডাঙ্গা প্রভৃতি খানা জেলা ও মহকুমা সম্বন্ধেও বসাকালে সম্পূর্ণ বিচ্ছিন্ন হয়ে যায়। এই সমস্ত খানার অবিসংলিপ্যকে বড় কষ্ট স্বীকার করে সম্বন্ধে আসতে হয় ও যাত্রায়ও ভরসা টেনে ধরতে হয়। সময়ে সময়ে এই সকল পালুতা নদীর বনায় জলের শ্রোত এত প্রবল থাকে যে ৪৫ দিন পর্যন্ত নদী পারাপার হওয়া যায় না। সেই সময় এই সমস্ত খানার লোকের যে কিরূপ কষ্ট হয় তাহা বলা যায় না। ঝাঁকুড়ায় চিকিৎসার জন্য, মাষলা-মাকদমার জন্য এবং হাট বাজারের জন্য এই সব খানার লোককে প্রায়ই আসতে হয় কিন্তু নদীর উপর সেতু না থাকায় তাই বসাকালে প্রায়ই এখানে আসতে পারেন না। ফলে জনসাধারণকে নীরবে কষ্ট অনুবিধা সহ্য করতে হয়। এই জন্য আমি এই চারটি প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপন করে ডাবপ্রাপ্ত নদী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি যেন অবিলম্বে যারেকেশ্বর নদীর উপর একটি সেতু নিৰ্মাণ করে ঝাঁকুড়া জিলায় এই সব খানার সহিও সম্বন্ধের মোপায়োপ স্থাপন করা হয়। যে সকল বড় বড় রাস্তা তৈরী করা হয়েছে সে উদ্দেশ্যকে আঁধার করা হয়।

Mr. COBINDALAL BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of converting the following unmetalled roads into metalled ones in the district of Khulna:—

- (1) Bardal, police-station Assasuni, to Patkelghata, police-station Tala,
- (2) Bagerhat to Morrelganj,
- (3) Satkhira to Nakipur, police-station Shyamnagore,
- (4) Khulna to Patkelghata,
- (5) Khulna to Bagerhat, and
- (6) Bagerhat to Pirogpur

Sir, there are many unmetalled roads in the district of which I have stated only six in order to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of converting these unmetalled roads into metalled ones. These roads are commercial roads and if Government makes an expenditure on these roads, I am sure, and Government will also feel convinced, that Government's income will in many ways be augmented. It is no use saying that union boards or district boards or other local boards are responsible for the improvement of these roads. I would urge upon the Government to undertake the responsibility of metalling these important roads in the district upon which depends the prosperity of the whole province.

Mr. C. P. C. WADE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this motion with a view to raising a discussion about the necessity for taking steps to secure the full execution of the Provincial Road Development programme.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in presenting the Budget described the revised figure of eight lakhs on Bengal Road Development Works as

nominal. This might well have been described in far more forceful terms as a pittance, and we hope that the increased amount budgeted for 1947-48—one crore and thirty-two lakhs—will be used during the coming year, and this House will not be faced this time next year merely with good intentions. If the department does not make better progress with the roads programme during the coming year, the province will lose the Central grant, and this will of course be a serious matter for the province. We, Sir, in this party have never minimised the importance of road development in the province and in India as a whole. We feel that the efficient and prompt carrying out of the Provincial Road Development plans is of such importance that we have decided to move this cut motion to draw attention to this subject and to express our disappointment at Government's failure to execute their road development plan. In particular, the importance of developing the roads in rural areas is emphasized as, without roads linking up villages with towns, marketing of agriculture and other produce is difficult, if not impossible, and new markets cannot be developed. Roads also lead to travel and to people getting to know one another better and are of educational and social value. The most profitable marketing and other centres must be easily and comfortably reached from the villages and I am glad to see that some attention is being given to the construction of village roads, such as a grant of Rs. 1 lakh for the construction of certain roads in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The list of road projects as published does however suggest that village roads are being neglected for provincial highways and major district board roads.

These village roads do not require such elaborate machinery and materials as other types of roads, and there is therefore less reason for their construction not being carried out quickly and efficiently. Recent events in this Province have shown that lack of communications made the distribution of foodstuffs difficult in times of famine and also increased the difficulties in maintaining law and order during times of disturbances.

Although in Government's Draft Post-War Reconstruction Plan, development of communications is given high priority, it does not appear that the Department are putting this excellent principle into practice. The Department, in fact, seems to lack elementary sense of urgency and importance of their work. The performance in the current year does not encourage much hope that their more ambitious programme for the coming year will be realised, and we cannot accept the plea that the special difficulties and disturbed conditions encountered in the current year explain such poor results—the almost complete failure to carry out the Roads Programme.

Apart from these special difficulties, however, this failure, we consider, must be attributed to inadequate planning and designing, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister to give the House an assurance that sufficient staff with the necessary experience and ability has been provided to carry out all the necessary designing and planning and to ensure the full execution of the programme. I would go further and urge that a special Roads Department be formed to relieve Public Works Engineers, who are now Jacks of all trades, of this special type of work. I would also request the Hon'ble Minister to give a further assurance that adequate machinery and adequate tools and materials are being provided to enable the programme to be completed.

The revival of the Provincial Board of Communications is urged or the constitution of some other advisory body which could be of particular value in assisting Government in deciding the relative merits and importance of road schemes and in deciding on policy generally. Such bodies would surely assist in the planning side of the work.

Reference has been made in this House to delays in the acquisition of land. I understand that land for only 300 miles of road has been acquired so far at a cost of approximately Rs. 50 lakhs. This figure of 300 miles

compares badly with the target of 700 miles a year set out in the Draft Post-War Reconstruction Plan. Is work in connection with the further acquisition of land well advanced and have the requisite number of land acquisition officers been appointed? Can the Hon'ble Minister assure us on this point as Government have attributed their failure to carry out the road programme so far partly to the time taken for land acquisition purposes? We feel that these are all difficulties that should have been anticipated and overcome.

In this connection, the King Report, on which the Post-War Road plan has been largely based, must not be overlooked and it would be a matter of interest if the Hon'ble Minister could tell the House how many miles of new road have been constructed and how soon the mileage - nearly 30,000 - under the scheme will be completed? We have no information as to the target of road mileage and would welcome information on this point also.

In connection with repairs there is only a very small increase in grants-in-aid to local bodies, whilst the provision for repairs shows a welcome increase of 17 lakhs. This does not seem enough in view of the serious deterioration existing in the roads and local bodies should have been given increased grants-in-aid, unless Government propose to take over more of these district roads. From personal experience of travel in many parts of Bengal, the roads are either good or very bad, and unless more money is made available for maintenance, even the good ones will become bad and bad ones will become completely unusable.

There is a pressing need in this province for the construction of new roads in the riverine districts, so that the remote areas in these districts can be opened up by easier communications with the steamer services. The importance to the general health and lives of the villagers in such areas of closer contacts with towns and the broader outlook obtained thereby cannot be over-emphasized.

In all these circumstances, Sir, and in the light of the past performance we can have no confidence in the capacity of the Department to execute its programme of Rs. 1 crore 32 lakhs for the coming year and we will not be reassured unless the Hon'ble Minister can satisfy us on the points I have raised.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Sir, in the general discussion of the budget, honourable members on the opposite like Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and Mr. B. C. Ghose in their most grand eloquent, theatrical and vociferous expressions tried to prove that this budget is a communal one. But, on an impartial examination and careful study of the budget, it will go to prove that the Hindus are getting more benefit from this budget than the Muslims. Some small amounts allotted in the Arabic names of some institutions printed in bold letters have puzzled the brains of the gentlemen over there and they have gone mad and are trotting about that the budget is a communal one, but they did not care to see that a much greater amount has been allotted for works in places where their co-religionists are going to get and enjoy more benefit than the Muslims. Sir, this has been put in that way perhaps by the non-Muslim Secretary only to give them a chance to prove that this Ministry is a communal one and nothing else. To call this budget as a communal one is just like trying to prove that the Indian National Congress is an organisation of Muslims also by including Quislings like Abul Kalam Azad and others.

Mr. Speaker: This is Civil Works budget.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: I am coming to the point. I find in the budget that only 4 lakhs has been allotted for the development

of the Islamia College. I am at a loss to understand as to how the Government will be able to develop the Islamia College with this scanty amount. We have been hearing for a long time that the Government is going to develop the Islamia College—

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is speaking on general subjects during the Civil Works budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has now come to the specific subject.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: We on this side of the House would like to know whether the former part of the speech will be expunged from the proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what ground?

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Because he entered into general discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not debarred from doing so.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: For a long time we have been hearing that the Islamia College will be made a first-grade college with special accommodation for the Muslim students. But now we realise that either we have been misled or we have been wronged.

Sir, I most emphatically and pertinently ask the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister in charge in particular to create a separate University for Muslims without which Muslim Bengal will never be satisfied. Our demand is for a separate University in Bengal, but unfortunately there is no such scheme in their programme. Sir, the Calcutta University which is dominated by caste Hindus alone is going to thrust upon the tender minds of Muslim boys a training—

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

Sir, may I have two minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. I have already allowed you 5 minutes.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Then one minute more.

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Mr. RAM HARI ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last budget session I drew the attention of the Government as well as of the House to the necessity of the immediate construction of a bridge over the river Mahananda at Malda Town. I do not like to repeat what I said on the last occasion. I am only thinking for how many years I am to do the same thing in the Assembly. Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal was the then Minister in charge of the department. He replied on the floor of the House that high priority had been given to the Mahananda bridge.

Sir, the public of Malda have been agitating over the matter for the last 10 or 12 years. Leading public institutions like Malda Bar Association, Muktear Association and the Englishbazar Municipality have taken up the matter afresh this year and have requested the Government to provide for the construction of the bridge in the budget estimates of 1947-48. From the budget estimates we see that the Government, callous to the interests of different districts, especially Malda, have ventured to ignore the demand of the district because they feel that they have brute majority in the Assembly. Here I tell you, Sir, that the Mahananda bridge is not the demand of a section of the people of Malda, but it is the united demand of the Hindu and Mussalman population of the district. The very simple reason that occurs to my mind for ignoring the demand is that two of my friends in the Government side who represent Malda are very docile and

not at all turbulent. I, therefore, request them to be so turbulent as to compel their Government to accede to the united demand; otherwise I do not see any other way how to rouse this Kumbhakarna Government, I should say, from their deep slumber to the foremost need of the district.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion which has been raised by honourable members regarding improvement of roads.

Speaking for Mymensingh I beg to say that there is a District Board road connecting Mymensingh District headquarters via Sambhuganj, Fulpur, then Haluaghat and going to the border of Garo Hills. That is an important road. There is no railway connection in the northern part of the district, and it is really an inter-provincial road. It requires immediate improvement. This road should be taken up by Government, improved, extended a little and connected upto the border of Garo Hill and Assam road which runs by the foot of the Hills. It will have connection both for the people of Mymensingh as well as for the border people of Assam. It will facilitate trade connections and transport of goods which may be taken from this province to the province of Assam as well as from the province of Assam to Bengal. In length also it will not be very much; it will probably be nearly 40 miles, and so it is not impossible for Government to take up the work. About 10 or 12 years ago when I was the Chairman of the District Board of Mymensingh, so far as I remember, the District Board of Mymensingh made a recommendation to the Government to take up the road under the Road Board Scheme which existed at that time, and of which the Special Officer was Mr. King as just referred to by Mr. Gupta. That is an old story. We do not know what has happened to that, but that is a very important road, and in the interest of all concerned it should be taken up by Government and should be included in the list of roads which are now known as national highways to be built by Government. I would, therefore, most earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to take special note of this matter and to consider whether this road can be taken up at once for immediate construction.

There are also other roads in the district which require immediate attention, namely, Mymensingh-Muktagacha Road, Mymensingh *via* Muktagacha-Jamalpur Road; Mymensingh-Trisal Road, Mymensingh-Fulbaria Road; Madhupur-Hennagar Road, Tangail-Mirzapur Road; Jamalpur-Sherpur Road; Shambhuganj-Gournpur Road, Iswarganj-Kishoreganj Road; Shambhuganj-Iswarganj Road; Shambhuganj-Netrakona Road; Mymensingh-Jamalpur Road; and Tangail-Charabaria Road. They require immediate attention of Government, but of course I know that Government cannot take them up all on a sudden. The question is how can they be taken up. Government must have a scheme. At present these matters are left to certain individual officers who never take care of what is being said on the floor of this House. As has been suggested by an honourable member of the European side—I also support him—Let there be a Board constituted from this House or by the Government to advise the Ministry or the department as to taking up important roads in the province for immediate improvement and construction under the National Highways Scheme. That may be very useful; otherwise lot of money will continue to be spent without any result. Ministers come and Ministers go, but we find no improvement of roads. So, in that view of the matter, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to take special note of the observations that I submitted here.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motions.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. MADAR BUX: Sir, much has been said regarding the improvement and development of roads, and I think a few thing can be added now.

One very important thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister is the inexplicable delay in the execution of this scheme. In the district of Rajshahi execution of the schemes for the construction of roads from Nawhata to Naogaon and from Natore to Singra and other places had been taken up long ago, but to our utter surprise we find that actually nothing had been done. It is said, Sir, that tenders have been called and in some cases tenders have been accepted, but the complaints from the side of the contractors have been to this effect that sufficient number of labourers are not available. Under the present circumstances we feel that there is a dearth of these labourers. Owing to the abnormal situation prevailing in the country no Bengali labourer is now-a-days available and our country people specially the agriculturists are not encouraged to come to this side in view of the fact that the remuneration that is given to them is not alluring. So I would suggest that the rates may be enhanced in order to bring this class of people to do this work.

Another suggestion which strikes me and which I should like to make is that a large number of men who belonged to the Civil Pioneer Force may be utilised in this work. It should not be forgotten that the development of roads should have the first priority in view of the fact that development of other things, such as industries, education, public health which are the crying need of the country, specially of the mufassal areas, cannot be achieved unless we give priority to the execution of these schemes in the mufassal. So another thing which strikes me or about which there is general complaint is that contractors are given contracts without much scrutiny. There is nobody to look after the execution or completion of the work. Huge sum of money is spent in connection with these contracts and there is also huge misuse of the money by the contractors. I would therefore suggest that a surveillance or work committee consisting of members of the locality where schemes are to be taken up should be set up to look after the condition as well as the execution of the work undertaken by the contractors.

Mr. MUHAMMAD SAYEED MIA: মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, আমাদের বর্তমান বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট বাংলাকে উন্নত ও সমৃদ্ধিশালী করার জন্য five years development programme বাবা বাংলার সমগ্র হইতে পল্লী ও প্রান্তর জুড়িয়া বাস্তবায়িত ও পুনঃনির্মাণ করণে বড় বড় পু্যান, পুজেক্ট ও স্কিম উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন, কিন্তু আমাদের মনে হয় তাহা কার্যাকরী করার মত কোন উদ্যম বা চেষ্টাই করিতেছেন না। গত এসেমব্লীতে আমার বক্তৃতার উত্তরে মাননীয় বক্সী মিঃ মোশেন্দ্র নাথ মণ্ডল অনুগ্রহ করিয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন যে মালদহ জেলার মহানন্দা ব্রিজ নির্মাণ কার্যকে first priority দেওয়া হইয়াছে, কিন্তু প্রায় একটি বৎসর অতীত হইতে চলিল তথাপি উক্ত প্রতিশ্রুতি বন্ধার কোনও লক্ষণ বা আভাস দেখা যায়নিতে না। আরও দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে বর্তমান বাজেটেও উক্ত মহানন্দা ব্রিজ পরিকল্পনা কার্যাকরী করার কোন ব্যবস্থাই করা হয় নাই। উক্ত জেলার কোথাও এ পর্য্যন্ত একটি বাস্তব ও উদ্যোগী হয় নাই। বাংলায় Nation Building এর জন্য বিরাট পরিমাণ বরাদ্দের টাকা কি তাহা ব্যয় হইয়াছে তাহা বক্সী মহোদয় বলিবেন কি? যদি five years development programme অনুযায়ী Nation Building এর কার্য অগ্রসর না হয়, তবে কেবল পুত্রকে ভাপার অন্ধবে বড় বড় স্কিম উপস্থিত করার স্বার্থকতা কি হইতে পারে? বাংলার চির উপেক্ষিত পল্লীবাণী চারী প্রজাতির কল্যাণ বা স্বাধীনতার ব্যবস্থা যদি এই বাজেটে না হয়, তবে বাংলার বিভিন্ন সচিবের কতকগুলি অফিস ও বাড়ীঘর নিম্নোক্ত কোটি কোটি টাকা অপব্যয় ও ধ্বংস করিলে, বাংলার জনসাধারণ, তাহাদেরই ভোটে প্রেরিত প্রতিনির্বাহককে কিছুতেই ক্ষমা করিবেন না। Nation Building পরিকল্পনাকে কার্যাকরী করিয়া এই বৎসরের মধ্যে প্রজাতির হিতসাধনের সচিচ্ছার প্রমাণ গভর্নমেন্টকে দিতে হইবে। আমি বক্সী মহোদয়ের নিকট জানিতে চাই যে তিনি গত বৎসরের প্রতিশ্রুতি অনুযায়ী মালদহ জেলার মহানন্দা ব্রিজের নির্মাণ কার্য আরম্ভ করিবেন কিনা এবং five years development plan অনুযায়ী মালদহ জেলার বাস্তবায়িত উদ্যোগীর ব্যবস্থা করিবেন কিনা?

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been able to find from the speeches of members of the Opposition that there are points with which we can agree. It has got to be admitted that a change of Ministry does not bring relief to the suffering public. It is rather the entire outlook

in the administration which can possibly bring relief and improvement in the condition of the people. Sir, there are certain traditions which are being persistently pursued by this Department and they are incapable of being rectified and they refuse correction. Even if there are 7 Ministries to deal with these matters you will find the position of the Muslims at the same point from where they started. There are of course big development schemes to be undertaken by this Department but there is absolutely no possibility of reciprocity in regard to division of labour. This Department needs more engineers to give impetus to the various construction and development projects. There is also the administration side. There are certain other things to which I referred in my last budget speech. Sir, the manner in which the affairs of this Department are conducted does not afford any scope to Scheduled Caste and Muslim contractors to come in. There are contractors in this Department of a permanent nature and they are there from generations together. I know several contractors' families who are in the Department from two to three generations.

Sir, an earnest money of 5 per cent. has to be paid by contractors as soon as they receive a tender. I can say that these contractors are by no means irresponsible businessmen. Now, schemes of 20 to 50 lakhs of rupees involve a much big amount as earnest money and therefore the Bengali Muslims or Scheduled Castes cannot have any opportunity because they cannot provide such huge amount as earnest money. Naturally the door of these contractors are banned before them. There can be no justification for this earnest money prescribed by Government. Government should devise ways and means to ameliorate the condition of the people and give chances to new people for the construction work and other matters of this Department.

Sir, there is a clique of insisting on lowest tenders. Lowest tenders are not always good. There are many things which do not meet the eye and these things are done with the connivance of permanent officials of this Department. Lowest tenders do not always pay and they do not always produce satisfactory results. So this bogey of lowest tender should be done away with because we have seen tenders of 45 per cent. to 50 per cent. less than the estimated cost. Am I to understand that these people have no technical knowledge or that they cannot prepare accurate estimates of expenditure involved in any plan or scheme? Now, Sir, due to these two things, namely, earnest money and lowest tender, Marwaris are coming into the field; they were not there 4 or 5 years ago. I would remind the House that unless and until these two things are done away with, there will remain every possibility of corruption of a colossal nature.

Sir, there is one other matter. It is the Khulna-Jessore Road. It is a motor road and is essentially necessary for procurement purposes. This road is not receiving much attention. This road should be improved if the supreme necessity of procurement, which is generally done by motor transport, is acknowledged.

MAULANA MUHAMMAD RUKUNUDDIN: মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, বাঙ্গলার বাঙ্গাধারের দুবসবার কথা এই Houseএর ২৫০জন মেম্বারের প্রায় সকলেই জানতেন। অনেক এ লোক অনেক কথাই বলেছেন। বাঙ্গলা গভর্নমেন্ট তার জন্য অনেক টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছে। Central Governmentএর নিকট হতেও বঙ্গীয় প্রাদেশিক গভর্নমেন্ট ই ব্যবহৃত অনেক টাকাও পেয়েছেন এবং ভবিষ্যতেও পাবেন বলে আশা করেন, কিন্তু গত বঙ্গের যে টাকা তাঁরা পেয়েছিলেন তার সবচেয়ে দিগাধ দিতে গেলে মাত্রই বাঙ্গলা গভর্নমেন্টের লক্ষিত হ'তে হয়। ভবিষ্যতে তাঁরা এই লক্ষ্যের বোঝা আর কতদিন সাধারণ বয়ে বেড়ানেন কে জানে। বিশেষ কর্তব্যের প্রতিরোধ আজ এই কথা না বলে পারি না। যাক, যেহেতু আমার সময় নিত্য কম তাই আমি particularly আমার একাধার মাত্র দু'একটির কথাই বলব। মসিরনগর, সবাইল ও শ্রাজ্জবাড়ীয়া এই তিনটা থানার এমন একটি রাস্তা নাই যার উপর স্বেচ্ছাখানসহ চলাচল করতে পারে। মানুষ পারে বেঁটে যেতে পারে এমন রাস্তাও সেখানে নাই। সবাইল ও শ্রাজ্জবাড়ীয়ার মাঝখানে যে একটি বড় রাস্তা আছে সেই রাস্তার একবার

আমাদের কোন এক মাননীয় বন্ধী মহোদয় শ্রীক্ষণবাড়ীয়া হতে সরাইল যাবার জন্য প্রস্তুত হইলেও রাস্তার দুর্দশার কথা মনে করে, রাস্তার খুলা বাহিলিতে এলাকার হয়ে যাবার ভয়েই হটুক অথবা গাড়ী উল্টে যাবার ভয়েই হটুক এই রাস্তার উপর দিয়া গাড়ীতে বসে সরাইল যেতে অস্বীকার করেছিলেন। এই রকম দুর্দশা যে দেশের বা যে এলাকার সে এলাকার M. L. A. হওয়াটাও বাস্তবিক পক্ষে একটা দুর্ভাগ্য ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। নাসিরনগর একটি বিরাট জনবহুল থানা। সেবারে আসানের পুলিশ হঠাৎ এই থানার ধড়মগুল ইউনিয়নে চুকে বাঙ্গলার প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার করার গেল। ঠেঙ্গিয়ে গেল নিরীহ জনসাধারণকে কিন্তু বাস্তবায়িত খারাপ বিধায় বাঙ্গলার পুলিশ সময়মত ঘটনাস্থলে গিয়ে পৌঁছতে পারল না বলে বাঙ্গলার প্রজাদের রক্ষা করতে পারল না। ধড়মগুল ইউনিয়ন একেবারে আসানের borderএ অবস্থিত, তদুপরি রাস্তাঘাটের অবস্থা নিতান্ত খারাপ বলে বাঙ্গলার পুলিশ ধড়মগুল ইউনিয়নের নিরীহ লোকদের সময়মত সাহায্য করতে পারল না; এমনকি আসান পুলিশের অত্যাচার থেকেও তাদেরকে রক্ষা করতে পারল না। আমার বিশ্রাস আসান পুলিশের অত্যাচারে ধড়মগুল ইউনিয়নের কত লোক কত প্রকারে কতটা কতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছে বাঙ্গলা গভর্নমেন্ট সে সংবাদও সঠিক পাননি। নাসিরনগর, সরাইল ও শ্রীক্ষণবাড়ীয়া এই তিন থানার উপর দিয়ে একটি রাস্তার পরিকল্পনার কথা শুধু তুইয়ে আসছি। আমাদের ভাবন শেষ হয়ে যাবে কিন্তু সে পরিকল্পনার বাস্তব রূপ হয়ত চোখে দেখতে পার না। এই বিরাট এলাকার হাজার হাজার লোককে কত কষ্টে চলাফেরা করতে হয় তা বুঝাবার সময় আমার নেই তবে আমি বন্ধী মহোদয়কে এদিকে তাঁর একটি নেক নজর দিতে অনুরোধ করে আমি ক্ষান্ত হলাম। আমি আশা করি তিনি উক্ত পরিকল্পিত বাস্তবায়িত একটি পাকা রাস্তায় পরিণত করতে অতি সত্বর যত্নমান হবেন।

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: The Hon'ble Minister for Communication and Works is over there and I may tell him that the Chief Minister who happened to visit my place at Satkhira while travelling on the road, mentioned,—"this is a god-forsaken place; why have you brought me here"? I said "it is the creation of the old Ministry who started making this road but kept it half done." It is the road from Nabharan to Satkhira, half-way in the Jessore district and half-way in Khulna district. People of Satkhira have to travel via Khulna Ghat to come to Calcutta. If this road is metalled from Satkhira via Kolaroa to Nabharan, we will be able to go to Satkhira in two or three hours. At present we are suffering very badly on account of the bad condition of the road; people fall down into ditches when travelling. But this is a very important road because there is no other communication to go to Satkhira except via Basirhat. There is no other road except via Nabharan up to Khulna Ghat direct or up to Calcutta direct. I was given to understand that this road would be taken up by the Road Board but I find now that no action has been taken. As soon as I came here I began enquiring about it and I was told that this year it would be done. But nothing has been provided in the Budget for this purpose. I would request the Hon'ble Minister that this road via Nabharan to Satkhira should be taken up immediately so that people may be relieved of their suffering and may go about comfortably in those places around Satkhira.

Mr. PRAFULLA RANJAN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of converting the existing roads into motorable roads in the district of Mymensingh:—

- (1) Road from Kishoreganj to Karimganj,
- (2) Road from Karimganj to Itna,
- (3) Road from Kishoreganj to Nilganj,
- (4) Road from Nilganj to Tarail, and
- (5) Road from Kishoreganj to Hossenpur.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARKA NATH BARORI: Sir, the criticism levelled against the Department mainly relates to the Road policy and the Road programme of Government. I would therefore like to explain in brief the present policy of Government in this matter.

I should mention at the outset that the plan for developments of roads has been drawn up in a most painstaking manner and every effort has been made to evolve a systematic plan on the basis of the monumental report of Mr. A. J. King as supplemented by the recent opinions of the local authorities including the Divisional Commissioners, District Magistrates and District Boards. The entire road plan is a 20-year programme and consists of 1,200 miles of National Highways, 2,300 miles of Provincial Highways, 6,200 miles of major district roads, 6,300 miles of other district roads and 14,000 miles of village roads. The total mileage is about 30,000 involving an aggregate capital cost of nearly 126 crores of rupees.

In order that the aims and objects of the plan may be properly appreciated it is perhaps desirable that I should define the roads that have been classified under the five categories just mentioned.

National Highways are the main highways running through the length and breadth of India connecting ports, foreign highways, capitals of provinces and of large States and includes road required for strategic movements for the defence of India (Loud noise from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. PRAVAS CHANDRA LAHIRY: Sir, is he speaking on the cut motions?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is probably outlining the general principles and speaking on the general policy. Then I think he will speak on the cut motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARKA NATH BARORI: Sir, the Government of India has accepted the entire responsibility for financing the capital cost and recurring expenditure on account of these highways. Provincial Highways are all other main trunk or arterial roads of a province, connecting with the National Highways, or highways of adjacent provinces or States, district headquarters and important cities within the province and serving as the main arteries of traffic to and from District roads.

District roads are the roads traversing each district serving areas of production and markets and connecting these with one another or with highways and railways.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. Is this a reply to the cut motions?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please follow him attentively. If you do not get any reply to the cut motions, you can draw my attention to that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, the reply of the Hon'ble Minister does not meet the points raised by the honourable members in their speeches.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not bound to confine his reply only to the speeches made in this House because he is entitled also to let the House know the general policy of the Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Do we understand that the Hon'ble Minister is expressing his own mind or is replying to the cut motions?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think he will satisfy you all by giving replies to the cut motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: They are again subdivided into two classes as Major District Roads and other District Roads, according to the traffic expected. These roads as contemplated in the 20 year programme aim at having every village in all highly populated areas within about two miles of such a road and within five miles or so in other areas.

The Village Roads are meant for connecting villages and groups of villages with one another to the nearest District Roads, main highways, railways or river ghats. (Interruption.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Do we understand that the Hon'ble Minister will include in the reply all the points raised by my honourable friend Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmad about some roads in Mymensingh district which are very urgent and the importance of which roads was fully emphasised by him?

The Hon'ble Mr. MAHOMMED ALI: Why does he anticipate the Hon'ble Minister's reply?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: We are very anxious to know what the Hon'ble Minister has to say. If he takes all the time in that little composition and if you put the red light on, we shall not know anything about those roads. I hope those points did not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the House is not prepared to hear the reply of the Hon'ble Minister that is a different matter. I can at once close the debate and put the motions to vote, but if members want to have the replies of the Government and know the Government point of view, I think they must have patience.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is very important that these points raised in the speeches should be replied to.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: We do not object to the Minister explaining the general policy but what we are apprehensive of is that the Minister may not reply to the points raised by us.

Mr. SPEAKER: This matter has already been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It is not fair for the Opposition to make these criticisms at this stage. The Hon'ble Minister is outlining the policy of the Government and after outlining the policy he will deal with the specific issues, at least major issues that have been raised.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: When?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: You just wait, hold your soul in patience.

Mr. A. F. STARK: May I make one suggestion, that in future Hon'ble Ministers might make their statements of policy at the beginning of the debate so that we may be able to debate them and at the end of the debate the Hon'ble Ministers will then take the correct course of replying to the debate. ("Hear, hear" from Opposition benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I fully appreciate Mr. Stark's point. Of course, if it was not done at the beginning of this debate it is being done at the end. The time that would have been taken at the earlier stage in stating the policy will be allotted now. Of course, the suggestion made by Mr. Stark will probably be more appreciated by the House and that may be followed in future.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Unless all the issues, as the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said, are raised at the beginning, and every time Government come with new issues, we do not know how many issues Government have got to produce before this House. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: It must be realised that the resources of Government are limited and it is not possible to undertake work on all the projects included in the complete plan at one time. A programme has therefore been drawn up for execution during the quinquennial period commencing from 1947-48. This may be described as the First Five Year programme of Road Development. It is comprised of just over 4,000 miles of roads of different categories and the amount of capital cost involved is about 26 crores of rupees.

I should observe in this connection that as the National Highways and the Provincial Highways are the mainstay of the whole scheme, these two categories of roads have been given the first preference in the matter of construction and the District Roads have received the next consideration.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: How is it that the Hon'ble Minister took no notice of the suggestion made by Mr. Stark or by yourself?

Mr. SPEAKER: That suggestion was for the future.

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKA NATH BARORI: These will serve to link the important villages with the business centres of rural areas all over the province as far as possible and also will connect them with Subdivisional Headquarters by all-weather roads. Every effort will also be made to bridge as many water channels as possible with the limited resources at the disposal of Government.

The programme of work both of roads and buildings contemplated during the current year and during the first five years has been framed with an eye to the requirement of the province but the actual realisation of the objective is beset with many difficulties. Firstly, the present technical personnel of the department is far too inadequate to cope with the work which the programme entails. The department is doing its best to tackle the problem of recruitment of technical personnel of which there is dearth all over India. Steps have also been taken to have men trained in special branches of Engineering by sending suitable candidates overseas for this purpose. At the present moment, however, the limit of "building load" which the department can bear has been reached and it has been found necessary for Government to devise means to have some of the building projects connected with the development scheme constructed through consultants. Moreover, it must also be realised that all building materials are in short supply.

An officer has recently been appointed to carry out the special duty of watching over and facilitating the procurement of materials. The supply position of iron and steel which are essential requisite for implementing constructional programme is disquieting and the position of coal is definitely alarming. The matter has however already been taken up with the Government of India. The difficulties before us are many and they are of very serious nature also. But the House may remain assured that all possible efforts will be made to carry out our programme.

Regarding the Motion No. 17 moved by Mr. J. C. Gupta, I should like to observe that out of the Road Plan drawn up before the war about 24 Road Fund Projects which were in progress at a total estimated cost of Rs. 1,64,00,000 had to be stopped on account of the circumstances created by the war. The works have however been resumed after the termination of the war. Most of the other roads included in the plan have now been included in the Post-War Road Development Plan of the province.

Regarding Motion No. 31 moved by Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha, the road in question forms a part of the Calcutta-Siliguri National Highway and has been given a very high priority in the matter of execution, viz., the first phase of the first quinquennial road programme.

Regarding Motion No. 36 moved by Mr. Benode Chandra Chakraborty, the Post-War Road Development Plan of Bengal includes proposals for construction of all the roads mentioned in the cut motion excepting items (2) and (5)—Muktagacha-Jamalpur Road and Madhupur-Hemnagar Road. The road in item (5) cannot be located and cannot therefore be commented upon while the necessity for construction of the road in item (2)—Muktagacha-Jamalpur Road—was neither felt by the department nor was such a point raised by the District Authorities including the District Board at the conference called by the Commissioner, Dacca Division, for ascertaining local opinion on the Road Plan proposed for the district.

It is not however possible to take up works on all the roads included in the plan at a time with the limited resources but all these roads in the Post-War Plan will be taken up for improvement in their turn. The First Five-Year Plan includes proposals to improve Mymensingh-Muktagacha Road, Tangail-Mirjapur Road, Shambhuganj-Haluaghat Road and Shambhuganj-Netrakona Road.

Next I come to the points raised by Mr. Kanailal Dass. 20-year Road Development Plan for Bengal includes proposal to construct a bridge over the river Damodar. Government are now considering a proposal for constructing a barrage-cum-road bridge in its place for which the final site has not yet been selected.

The necessity for improving the road between Bonpas and Bhatar Stations under the Post-War Road Development Scheme was not felt and it has not been included in the plan.

As regards his next point the section of the Burdwan Arambag Road in the Burdwan district is already motorable. The remaining section from Bulchandrapur at Burdwan district border to Arambagh has already been included in the Post-War Road Plan for improvement as a Provincial Highway and given high priority.

As regards the necessity of improving the District Board Roads in the Midnapore district, I want to say that the Post-War Road Development Plan of this Province includes proposals for construction of roads as follows:—Contai-Khejuri Road, Egra-Pamparul Road and Balighai-Jaleswar Road. It is not, however, possible to take up works on all roads included in the plan at a time with the limited resources at the disposal of Government. The first five-year programme drawn up by Government for the Midnapore district in consultation with district authorities including District Board envisages construction and improvement of about 252 miles of roads but the roads mentioned are not included in that programme. All the roads included in the Post-War Plan will be taken up for improvement and construction in their turn.

Regarding the cut motion of Mr. Rajendra Nath Sarkar I would like to tell you that the Post-War Road Development Plan of the Khulna district includes a proposal to improve the road to Provincial Highway Standard in the first five-year programme of Post-War Development Scheme which will commence from 1947-48. The actual work on the road will be started as soon after completion of the necessary preliminaries regarding survey, land acquisition, etc., as the resources available with Government in men and materials would permit.

As regards the point raised by Mr. Haripada Chatterjee I would like to say that the road in question has been included in the 20 year plan of Post-War Road Development for Nadia district. The first five-year programme of Nadia district incorporates proposals to improve and construct about 200 miles of roads of different categories.

I appreciate the interest and anxiety shown by many honourable members for the early improvement of a large number of roads individually named by them. I shall be thankful to the Honourable members if they kindly agree not to insist on my making specific reference to all of them individually. I can, however, assure them that I have examined the case of each road and I have found that barring a few roads of minor importance the roads named by the honourable members have been included in the Road Development Plan and a very fair proportion of them have found place in the first five-year programme. As to Dacca-Aricha Road, I would mention that although its construction presents great difficulty from the point of view of drainage and public health the question of selecting a suitable alignment is being seriously pursued. I should also like to mention that the project for the construction of a bridge over the Damodar at Burdwan has been included in the Road Development Plan. It has not yet been possible to select a suitable site for the bridge as we are now considering a proposal for having a bridge-cum-barrage over the Damodar.

With these remarks I oppose all the cut motions and commend my motion for acceptance by the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: As many as 17 cut motions have been moved on this grant. In order to save time I am putting all the motions together. The question before the House is that the cut motions of—

- (5) Mr. Pravash Chandra Lahiry,
- (6) Mr. Pravash Chandra Lahiry,
- (9) Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui,
- (14) Mr. Rajendra Nath Sarkar,
- (17) Mr. J. C. Gupta,
- (18) Mr. J. C. Gupta,
- (24) Mr. Mumindra Nath Bhattacharjee---

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of order, Sir. I may just point out that these motions cannot be put together, because they raise separate issues. I think you should reconsider your decision and be pleased to put these motions separately.

Mr. SPEAKER: This was no ruling, but for the sake of convenience I adopted this course. If there is any objection, I have got to put them separately. Of course it will take much time of the House.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, we want them to be put separately.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, the particular cut motions which the Opposition members have moved may be put separately. All other motions may be put together.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. There is a demand that I should take them one by one. I am not unwilling to do this job, but I thought that it would be boring to the members of this House to repeat the formula from the Chair every time. That is why I wanted to adopt this course. I am putting the cut motions one by one.

The motion of Mr. Pravash Chandra Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Pravash Chandra Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Rajendra Nath Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. J. C. Gupta that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. J. C. Gupta that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Munindra Nath Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Munindra Nath Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Haripada Chatterjee that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Benode Chandra Chakraborty that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kanailal Dass that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kanai Lal De that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Prafulla Ranjan Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Gobindalal Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. C. P. G. Wade that the demand of Rs. 6,32,63,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Dwaraka Nath Barori that a sum of Rs. 6,32,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

54—Famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,90,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the financial year 1947-48.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details of the provision under the head "54—Famine" are as follows:—

	Rs.
(1) Salaries and Establishment	45,00,000
(2) Gratuitous Relief	1,20,00,000
(3) Miscellaneous (Test Works)	30,00,000
(4) Rehabilitation Programme	95,00,000

Before I place the programme of expenditure of the current year before the House, I think, it would not be out of place to mention that during the last year as soon as there was any report of distress from any district, relief was rushed into the affected areas at once and my friends from Bankura, Bakerganj, Hooghly, Midnapore, Mymensingh, Nadia, Noakhali, Pabna, Rangpur, Tippera and 24 Parganas and also Chittagong will bear me out that on a very liberal scale relief was given to mitigate the suffering of the people.

From this year's provision it will be seen that under the head "Salaries and Establishment", we have provided a sum of Rs. 45 lakhs. It will appear to be a very large sum provided for this purpose, but I would like to bring home to the honourable members that under this head expenditure on the following sub-heads is also included:—

	Rs.
(a) Isolated work-cum-poor houses and orphanages:	15,00,000
(b) Emergency Famine Relief Hospitals:	11,50,000
(c) Establishment and Contingent charges:	18,50,000

Expenditure on account of transport charges in connection with distribution of relief supplies and the payment of the selling commission to dealers undertaking on behalf of Government, the operation of cheap grain shops will be met from this head of "Establishment and Contingent" charges. It will thus appear that actual expenditure on staff and establishment is not out of proportion to the amount of work involved. It is only Rs. 13,12,500, i.e., 4.5 per cent. of the total relief expenditure.

We have provided Rs. 1,20,00,000 and Rs. 30,00,000 under the heads "Gratuitous Relief" and "Miscellaneous (Test) Works," respectively. In this connection, I may point out to the honourable members that if, at any time it appears that the amount provided for under these heads, is inadequate, Government will provide more money so that the people, in distress, may not suffer.

Let me now turn to the budget estimate of Rehabilitation Programme for the coming year. A sum of 95 lakhs of rupees has been provided on this account. Out of this amount Rs. 20 lakhs is for running Central Destitutes

Homes and the balance of Rs. 75 lakhs is for permanent orphanages. At present 36 Central Destitutes Homes, now functioning and the total number of orphans accommodated there is 3,300. It is very likely that most of the Central Destitutes Homes will have to be retained during the next year. Endeavour, however, will be made to curtail their number as far as practicable. This accounts for the total demand under the head "54—Famine".

Mr. SPEAKER: May I point out to Dr. Pratap Chandra Guha Roy that the motion as framed by him is so vague that it is difficult to bring it under this head "Famine"? It looks more like a motion under Civil Supplies Budget. So please add some sort of expression, as "to prevent famine" or "for relief purposes". I don't think it can be admitted in the present form under this head "Famine".

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: But it has been admitted in the way as it is, viz., "to make adequate arrangement of supply of rice in rural area"—

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless you add the words "to prevent famine" or "for relief purposes" in the motion—

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: I shall certainly add.

Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,90,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about mismanagement, corruption and failure of the Government to make adequate arrangement of supply of rice in rural area to stop famine.

সি: শ্রীকার স্যার, Famine headএ near about তিন কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করা দেখে অনেকে হয়তো মনে করতে পারেন যে বাংলা দেশে যাতে famine না হয় এবং famine হলে যাতে তার উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা করা যায় সেই জন্য এত টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। কিন্তু এই ব্যয় বরাদ্দ সম্বন্ধে detail হিসাব যদি দেখা যায় তাহলে দেখতে পাবেন যে এই টাকা যে ভাবে ব্যয় করা হচ্ছে তাতে salaries and establishment ব্যয় প্রায় ৪৫ লক্ষ টাকা চলে যাচ্ছে, gratuitous reliefএর জন্য এক কোটি ২০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় হয়েছে—কিন্তু gratuitous reliefএর definition যদি দেখেন তাহলে দেখতে পাবেন যে cheap grain shopএর বা লোকসান তাও gratuitous reliefএর খাতে খরচ দেখান হয়েছে। এমনি করে একটা বিরাট famine company করে একটা স্বচিহ্নিত লুটের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। কতকগুলো officersদের মাইনে দিয়ে পোষবার বশোবস্ত হয়েছে মাত্র। Contingencyর খরচ যদি দেখেন তবে দেখতে পাবেন যে contingencyর নাম করে হাজার হাজার টাকা খরচ করে নেবার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। এই ব্যবস্থার মধ্যে famine রোধ করার ব্যবস্থা কোথায়? Famine আচে কিনা তাব হিসাব এই departmentএর এই ব্যবস্থার ভিতরে নেই। আজকে famineএর জন্য বাংলায় যে হাফাকার উঠেছে, সেই famineকে রোধ করার জন্য কোথাও কোন বোঁজ বা হিসাব এই বাজেটে দেখা যায় না। আজ বাংলার সর্গুত্র, specially East Bengal এবং North Bengalএ চালের দর কোথাও ২৫-৩০ টাকার নিচে নয়, যদিও সেন্সি Chief Minister বড় গলায় বলেছিলেন যে এখানে famine হবার কোন সম্ভাবনা বা আশঙ্কা নেই, কেবল mischief-mongersএ এই সব হুঁচকেছে। ১৯৪৩ সালে the then Finance Minister যিনি ছিলেন, তাঁর হুঁচকেও ঠিক এমনি ধরণের কথা বেরিয়েছিল যে বাংলায় famine হবার কোন আশঙ্কা নেই; এবং তারপর তাঁকে চটল হুঁচকে লোকের বাড়ী বাড়ী ঘুরে, শানের তলায় পথ্য ঢুকতে হয়েছিল, আর তার ফলে ৩৫ লক্ষ লোক অনাহারে মৃত্যুমুখে পড়ে গুঁকে গুঁকে করেছে। এত মানুষ মরেছে যে শব্দই তার বাসে যেতে গুণাবোধ করেছে। সেই Finance Minister আজ Chief Minister হয়ে এসেছেন, তিনি আবার তাঁর সেই পুরাতন কথায় বসছেন "যে বাংলার famine হবার কোন আশঙ্কা নেই, মালি scarce-mongersএ এই সব কথা রটিয়ে বেড়াচ্ছে।" Food Commissioner Mr. S. N. Roy—His Masters voiceএর প্রতিশ্রুতি করে ঠিক এই কথাই বলেছেন যে famine হবার কোন কারণ নেই। তাঁকে যখন জিজ্ঞাসা করা হয়েছে যে, এই যে চালের দর হু-হু করে বেড়ে যাচ্ছে, এর কারণ কি? তার উত্তরে তিনি বলেছিলেন যে

“এর কোন কল্পের আমি দিতে পারি না।” এই হ'ল Food Commissioner এর report. একটা নিশান তিনি আবিষ্কার করেছেন যে এদেশের কৃষকের হাতে এবার চাল আটক পড়ে গিয়েছে, কৃষকেরা চাল বাজারে দিচ্ছে না। আমি বলি কৃষকেরা যদি বাজারে চাল না লের, তাহ'লে যারা চাল বাজারে পাচ্ছে না, তাদের চাল সরবরাহের কি ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে? করিমপুর জেলায় ২৮ লক্ষ লোকের বাস, তার মধ্যে ১০-১২ লক্ষ কৃষক। এই ১০-১২ লক্ষ কৃষক যদি চাল বাজারে না ছাড়ে তাহলে বাকী ১৫-১৬ লক্ষ লোক কি খাবে, সেটা গড়ব'য়েপ্ট-কেই ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। করিমপুরে February মাসে মাত্র ১৪ হাজার মণ চাল পাঠান হয়েছে ১৬ লক্ষ অনাহারক্লিষ্ট লোকের জন্য, এই ধরনের ব্যবস্থা করে তাঁরা famine দমন করবেন? Civil Supply-এর Minister যখন কিছুদিন আগে মুনসীগঞ্জে যান, তখন সেখানে তিনি বলেছিলেন যে, “আপনারা এখানে লোকের কাপড়ের অভাব বলছেন, কিন্তু সভার উপস্থিতি জমতাকে দেখলে কাপড়ের কোন অভাব আছে বলে মনে হয় না?” “অর্থাৎ কেউউ উলজ হয়ে সভার আসেনি?” (Shame, shame.) তিনি লোহাছাংএ এসে বহুতা গিয়েছেন, সেখানেও এই ধরনের সব কথা বলেছেন যে—“কুমারের পুনে অনেক হাঁড়ী ভেঙে যায়, ঐশ-মুড়ি ডাঙতে গেলে অনেক ঐশ-মুড়ি বাইরে পড়ে নষ্ট হয়, সুতরাং মানুষ বেশী হ'লে খাবার অভাবে কিছু মরবে, তাতে আর এমন কি আসে যার?” (Shame, shame.) এই বকন reckless, অসভ্য, নিনজ্জ, কাণ্ডজানহীন উক্তি যে শাস্তি করতে পারে (Shame, shame.) দেশের জনসাধারণ যদি জাগ্রত থাকত, দেশ যদি স্বাধীন হত, জনমত যদি শক্ত হলে উঠত তাহ'লে এই বকন অর্থাচীন মন্ত্রীকে লোহাছাংএ পদ্মার ভল মাটিয়ে ছেড়ে যেওনা উচিত ব্যবস্থা হ'ত বলে আমি মনে করি। এই সমস্ত বিনিষ্টার এখানকার গণী লম্বল করে বসে আছেন, আর বলছেন famine হয়নি। আমি বিনিষ্টারের নিকট পরিত্যক্ত করে বলেছি, দেখিয়ে দিয়েছি যে সমস্ত চোব দিয়ে সেখানকার কাজ চলেছে। মাদারীপুরে ৫০০ বস্তা চাল মানুষের অশাশ বলে ফেলে দেবার জন্য Supply Department-এর Technical Expert মত নিয়ে এসেছিলেন, কিন্তু সেই ৫০০ বস্তা পচা চাল ভাল চালের সঙ্গে মিশিয়ে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বিলি করা হয়েছে। Dealer লের বলা হয়েছে যে “দু-চার বস্তা পচা চাল না নিলে, ভাল চাল যেওনা হবে না।” ১০-১৫ হাজার মণ ময়, লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ পচা চাল local dealersরা গুলন থেকে নিয়ে বাইরে চালিয়ে দিচ্ছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Should I point out to you, Dr. Guha Roy, that your speech refers to the Civil Supplies Department the demand for which is not under discussion. Please come to the point.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: আমার cut motion এ রয়েছে যে rural areaতে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ চাল supply করতে পারছে না, কাজেই আমাকে Civil Supply Department সম্বন্ধে কথা বলতে হবে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Then you should reserve your speech for the demand under Civil Supplies. You cannot expect a reply to all these points from the Minister in charge of Famine.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: To stop famine I want to know the whole supply position of rice and that is why I have brought in the question of rice supply.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you must bring it within the scope of the demand under Famine; you are speaking too much on Civil Supplies and not on Famine.

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Rural areaতে চাল supply Civil Supply Department ছাড়া আর কে দেবে? সুতরাং আমাকে Civil Supply Department সম্বন্ধে কথা না বলে উপায় নাই। সুতরাং আমি Civil Supply সম্বন্ধে আর একটি বনৌট দেন করবো। আমি Civil Supply Minister-এর নিকট কতকগুলি concrete examples গিবেছিলার কিন্তু তাঁর concrete-এ তৈরী রাখার সেগুলি চোকাতে পারিনি। পুরাতন বুলি আড়তে দিগি বলে বেড়াচ্ছেন যে কোথাও famine হবার আশঙ্কা নেই। বহুদিন পূর্বে কোটালিপাড়ার মৃত্তকের সমস্ত তলানীভূত ঢাকার কবিশনার Sir Beaton Bell এর Famine Commission যে report গিবেছিলেন তা যদি পড়েন তাহলে অবাক হয়ে যাবেন। তিনি কোটালিপাড়ার জমতে গিয়ে বলেছিলেন যে “সেখানকার গাছে এখনও

পাওয়া আছে, পাছে পানি ডাকে, শেষে কুম্ভুর, বেড়াল, প্রখনও বুকে বেড়ায়, অন্তর্য বেদেশে ভুজিক হয়নি, হতে পারেনা।" বর্ধমান বহীমণ্ডলী ঠিক সেই পুরাতন "বেল" সাহেবী হুলি কপছে বেড়াচ্ছেন। পশু ভূজিক যখন বাংলার ৩৫ লক্ষ লোক মরলো তখনও তিনি বলে বেড়িয়েছিলেন যে এখানে কোন 'famine' হয়নি, এবং এট কখন পৃথিবীর সর্বত্র প্রচারিত হয়েছিল। আজও বাংলার সর্বত্র বিশেষ করে ইষ্ট বেঙ্গল ৪০ নর্থ বেঙ্গলে দিলাটভাবে 'famine' আরম্ভ হবার পূর্ণাভাষ পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। সেখানে লোকেরা ২৫০ টাকার নীচে চাল কিনতে পারছে না। কৃষকের হাতে খান চাল থাক বা না থাক, গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রত্যেকটি লোককে খেতে দিতে বাধ্য, একথা তুলে গেলে চলবে না। চালের দাম বেড়ে গিয়ে লোকের ক্রয়-শক্তির সীমা ছাড়িয়ে গেছে অথচ সেখানে চাল supply এর কোন বাধা নেই, এবং দ্রার ফলে সেখানকার অধিবাসীরা চাল কিনতে পাচ্ছে না। আজ সম্রাটের বেশী কষ্ট হচ্ছে middle class লোকদের, কারণ চালের দাম তাদের ক্রয়-ক্ষমতার বাইরে চলে গিয়েছে; এবং পরম্য দিয়েও কোথায় চাল পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। ময়মনসিংহ, কিশোরগঞ্জ, ঢাকা, কুমিল্লা, ফরিদপুর, বিশেষতঃ বরিশাল, যাকে surplus area বলে রলা হয়ে থাকে, সেখানে ২৮-৩০ টাকা করে চালের দাম বাড়ি হচ্ছে। সর্বত্র চালের দর হু-হু করে বেড়ে যাচ্ছে। নিষ্ক্রিয় অধিবাসী জনসাধারণের রক্ত জল করা অর্থে gramfed হয়ে পরিপুষ্ট দেহ নিয়ে মূরে বেড়াচ্ছে, আর দেশের লোক না খেতে পেয়ে মরবার পথে বসেছে, "আপনার থাকবার জায়গা নেই, আবার শব্দরীরে ডাকে।" নিজের প্রদর্শন লোক না খেতে পেয়ে, অন্যায়ের, অস্বাভাবিক মরতে বসেছে আর বিচার থেকে দেড় লক্ষ মাসততু ডাইলের নিমন্ত্রণ করে এনে জামাই আসকে পোষা হচ্ছে।

আমি বলতে চাই এবারকার 'famine' এ যদি মৃত্যুর কারণ ঘটে তাহলে "tooth for tooth eye for eye," দিতে হবে। এবার যাদের উপর মৃত্যুর দণ্ড প্রচারিত হচ্ছে তারা নীরবে শোভাযাত্রা করে মরণের দিক এগিয়ে যাবে না। স্ত্রীসং আমি মুসলীম লীগ পার্টির ডাইলের অনুরোধ কবডি যে এই সমস্ত অসমর্থ আত্মত্বকের দলকে সরিয়ে দিয়ে সেখানে নূতন উপযুক্ত লোক নিয়োগ করুন। (A voice: আপনাবা এক্ষরে চলে আসুন) যারা মানুষকে খেতে দিতে পারে না, বহীমণ্ডল গণী আঁকড়ে ধরে থাকবার তাদের কোনও অধিকার নেই।

(The House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,90,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the maldistribution of relief in the flood-affected area of Satkaneu in the district of Chittagong.

Satkaneu suffered very badly during the floods of 1946. Rangunia also suffered at that time, but for some reason the Government seems to have been a little more kind to Rangunia than to Satkaneu. Rangunia got tube-wells fairly quickly in consultation with the village people—after all, they are the ones concerned. The wells were tested and measured and were found satisfactory. For some months no tube-wells were sunk in Satkaneu. I saw the Minister for Rehabilitation once on this matter. After that, some wells were sunk, but, unfortunately they were not sunk in consultation with the village people nor were they measured or tested and the result is that half of those wells are already dry. The Minister for Finance has told us that he is going to see that all the wells that are out of condition will be repaired. But I ask him why should new wells need repairs so quickly. If they had been properly done, there would have been no necessity for this.

In Nalua where there are many fishermen there is no arrangement for drinking water and the people of that village asked many times to have a tube-well sunk, but none was sunk there with the result that in a place of about 3 square miles with about a thousand families there is only one well and that well is now running dry.

Then, I want to bring to your notice the small building loan—mind you, not a gift—of Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 for building houses or even huts. What can a man buy with Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 towards building of house? Corrugated

পক্ষাঘ্নেণ ভূজিক্তেহ ভয়াহ চিত্র পৃথিবীর সর্গু প্রকাশিত হওয়ায় বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের দ্বাৰা মালীপু হটয়াছিল।
অতএব সহরে পুৰ্বভিত্তি চইল বেশন ব্যবস্থা। এখন পল্লীতে পল্লীতে বৃত্তিকিত্তের বে আঁতলা উঠিতেছে তাহা।
পল্লীর সীমাশ্রাভেই বিদীনা হইয়া বাটবে, বহির্ভাগে আর পৌঁছিতে না। একপাড়াতে পল্লীর মুক জনসাধারণের
জীবন নিয়া নোনা করিয়া অবিলম্বে সর্গু অস্থত পক্ষে বাটতি অকলগতিতে পূর্ণ বেশন ব্যবস্থা পুৰ্বভন করা
প্রয়োজন। এই ব্যবস্থা পুৰ্বভনে ব্যৱহৃত আশঙ্কা নাই। বাংলা স্বত্বর অভাব না থাকিলে কোন ব্যৱস্থাবিধাত্ত ব্যবধ
নাই। আর প্রকৃত্ত অভাব থাকিলে দেশবাসীকে বিধা বাপ্পা না দিত্তা বাসত্যত্বে।আবাসীক এত্ৰু বটন ব্যবস্থা।
অবলম্বন করিয়া দেশকে হসকা করা প্রযোজ্য। এই ব্যবস্থা পুৰ্বভন করিতে বিদ্য হওয়ায়, নব্বালা থাকিলে বাটতি
অকল বিলম্বনবে চাকা ও টম্পার বিভাগে অনিলম্বে পরিভৱে বনা cheap grain shops, করণবিদীনা

নিঃস্বদের জন্য পরম্পতি শান এবং স্থানে স্থানে চেষ্টা মিলিকের কার্য আরম্ভ করা প্রয়োজন। এবং প্রদেশের অন্তর্ভুক্ত চাউল চলাচলের বাধানিষেধ অপসারণ করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। কারণ দর হুজির ইহা অন্যতম প্রধান কারণ।

মিঃ রায় বলিয়াছেন, শঙ্ক পাহারার বেড়া সেওয়া হইয়াছে, যাহাতে চাউল বাহিরে যাইতে না পারে। তাঁহার জানা ভাল যে ঐ বেড়ার তৈলসিক্ত ছিত্রপথে প্রচুর চাউল বাহিরে চলিয়া যাইতেছে। আরোপিত নিষেধাজ্ঞার চাউল চলাচল বন্ধ হইতেছে না, পুলিশ Enforcement Branch এবং সিভিল সাপ্লাইএর কর্মচারীদের পকেট ভর্তি করিয়া চলার পথে চাউলের দর বাড়িতেছে মাত্র। আর ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছে উৎপাদনকারী কৃষক এবং জেতার দল।

এই ব্যবস্থায় বাড়তি অঙ্কের কৃষকেরা বাধ্য হইয়া অল্প দরে শান বিক্রী করে, উৎপাদন খরচও তাহা বা পায় না। আর চোরের পকেট ভর্তি করিয়া বাটতি অঙ্কলে চাউল হয় অপ্রিমুখ্য।

বর্তমানে ১০৬৭০ মেরে চাউল খরিদ করিয়া কলিকাতায় ১৬।০ মেরে বিক্রী করিয়া ও হিসাবের খাতায় লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ঘাটতির অভিনব ব্যবসায় গড়র্ণ মেশের অবিলম্বে পরিত্যাগ করা সম্ভব।

এই পরিষদের উত্তর পক্ষের লোকের এক যুক্ত কমিটিতে আলোচনা করিয়া দৃষ্টিক হইতে রক্ষা পাওয়ার উপায় স্থির করা কর্তব্য এবং অবিলম্বেই সেটা করা প্রয়োজন।

এই শ্রুত্রে আমি কয়লা সমস্যার প্রতিও গড়র্ণ মেশের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। দেশে চাউলের অভাব, কাপড়ের অভাব, কয়লার অভাব, এই সমস্ত নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের অভাবে জনসাধারণের জীবনযাত্রাকে দুগুণ সহ করিয়া তুলিয়াছে। আমি আশা করি গড়র্ণ মেশে অবিলম্বে স্তু ব্যবস্থা করিয়া চাউল চলাচলের সমস্ত বাধানিষেধ দূর করিয়া দিবেন। এই বলে আমি আমার motion move করিতেছি।

HUSAN ARA BECUM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, famine is nothing strange or unusual in Bengal, where epidemics and floods are so common. But the Great Famine of 1943 presented such a devastated spectacle that the whole world was terrified by its consequence. This Famine has opened a new channel of work for both the Government and the Relief organisers. In the beginning the problem of famine was an emergency. But now it has developed into a big problem which needs considerate planning and perseverance of work.

After the completion of the emergency period of Relief, the question of rehabilitation arose. It is no doubt that the Government came forward on this occasion and rendered all possible assistance in connection with general rehabilitation of the distressed masses. But much yet has to be done. A haphazard relief—a few morsels of food to the starving people—a few yards of cloth to the naked—and some doses of medicine to the ailing, is no proper solution or remedy.

I have seen that after the establishment of the Department of Relief by the Government of Bengal, the homeless and helpless destitutes were collected and deposited in some camps or other, and after a month or two they were repatriated to their native districts, where there was no permanent provision made for them. Many of the destitutes repeatedly returned to Calcutta after repatriation, apparently for no other reason, than that they were not provided with means for a smooth livelihood.

Some attempts have been made and much money has been spent by the Government at making technicians of the destitutes, but this has not formulated as no proper technique was displayed in planning to the Formula of Rehabilitation.

From the Famine and Statistical Reports it appears that women and children have been the worse victims, and have suffered dreadfully. 90 per cent. of the destitutes who succumbed to their agonies were women and children. The League Government of 1943 started the Relief work as an emergency measure, the relief work was completed within a short time. But the distress of the helpless women and children in the latter part of the relief campaign could not be permanently allayed.

On principles of Islamic and lately the modern democracy the distressed masses are the liabilities of the State. Hence it becomes the duty of the Government to see that the causes of distress and famine are permanently removed. The problem of the real remedy for famine consists in forming a perfect planning Scheme, which will no doubt be a heavy drain on the Provincial Exchequer. It will not be a burden on the nation if sufficient taxes are levied for improving the general condition of the distressed and famine-stricken masses permanently and in all possible ways.

It would be possible for the Government to formulate a constructive plan for the solution of this problem through the co-ordination of the legislators and the administrators for the general upliftment of the distressed and famine-stricken masses (who are involved in or are susceptible to be involved in famine) on a permanent basis and thereby protect them from degeneration.

Sir, in my humble opinion a new start should be made in this direction for the alleviation of famine sufferers of Bengal and I would suggest that a Board of experts comprising of experienced administrators, and leading relief workers be formed to find out a better solution for this most burning problem which is eating away at the very core of the population of the Province.

In order to work out this problem, I request the Hon'ble Relief Minister to take into consideration a number of allied problems, viz., (1) sufficient protection for the areas susceptible to recurrent floods, (2) proper irrigation for the areas bearing good soil for harvesting, (3) permanent relief for helpless women and children, (4) improvement of financial condition of the *bustee* dwellers, (5) introduction of elaborate scale of flourishing industries in rural areas and *bustees*, (6) proper technical training to *bustee* dwellers, (7) proper control on sanitation and epidemics, (8) special training for the destitute women and children in handwork, industry, etc.

I sincerely hope that the Government will take into consideration the above facts and thereby relieve the most distressing factors of the Province.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our first, best country Bengal was once, not very long ago, a land of plenty. But today she is a land of sorrows. The experience of the last great devastating famine has burnt into our memory, but Government does not seem to be a bit wiser by the experience. Even now we find that three public enemies now hold the field in this hapless province. The first is complacency which still fills the official mind. The second is corruption and graft and mediocrity; and the third is black marketing. The result is while it is declared that this province has plenty of stock, but in actual experience the masses find little to eat. We have been advised and we hear empty platitudes—tighten your belt. Well, the masses have been tightening their belt since the last three years, but their stomachs have got so shrunken that the belt tightened ever so much will remain slack. Now, Sir, when it is declared that this is a surplus district and that is a deficit district, we find in actual experience that the deficit districts do not get any supply. Even from adjacent thanas which are surplus subdivisions rice does not move and even if rice moves, the poor, those who are classified as Class III ration card-holders, do not get any supply. When rice comes, it is taken by Classes A and B and it disappears in a moment and then when it comes again it again disappears into the black market. I say most emphatically that it is the duty of the Government to feed the people. Class III ration card-holders must be fed too, but if Government cannot feed the masses it has no right to exist. Therefore I would ask Government to give gratuitous relief to those people who do not get their usual supplies of food, clothing, coal, etc. If things go on like this, the people, the masses will die like flies due to starvation and malnutrition and other causes. Therefore, it behoves Government to be alert and feed the people by opening gratuitous relief centres in larger numbers so that the persons in indigent circumstances may not starve for want of

food. There may be plenty of stock but if the poor find nothing to eat what will happen to them. Is there going to be a repetition of the experience of the last devastating famine? Certainly not. Today the people, the masses will not take it lying down. They will rise and revolt if they cannot get food to eat. I hope that gratuitous relief centres should be actually opened so that the poor may be fed out of the rice supplied by the Government. I am giving a timely warning to the Ministry that they ought not to trifle with the lives of the poor, any longer. If they do so, the effect will be disastrous.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHUNDKAR: Sir, much criticism has been offered by my honourable friends opposite against this Ministry. They termed this Ministry communal, the budgetary provisions communal and even this matter of relief communal. I have taken my stand today to give some reply to the charges and I would say that these criticisms are not based on facts but they have been made for political purposes. The other day we heard that relief measures for Noakhali and Tippera sufferers were not adequate. Government came forward with their figures and statements for the information of the House. We were glad to see that enormous amount from the public fund was drained out for these two districts and relief was distributed very liberally not on one item but for many items, such as building grant, hearth grant, diet grant, so on and so forth. What is the actual position? My honourable friend, Mr. Mujibar Rahman of Noakhali gave us a picture that relief was given very liberally there but that there was dishonesty in the receipt of this relief. One family was shown in the list as 8 or 10 families; with a bogus and fictitious personnel and relief was taken for 8 or 10 families although truly speaking there was one family only. It is not only dishonest but also criminal misappropriation. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister for Relief to see that the machinery for distribution of relief in those districts be not duped in future. Sir, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee waxed eloquent the other day when he criticised Government for discontinuing Refugees Camps. Government assured him that if there was need for them they would be continued. I have got information that corruption, mal-administration, nepotism and favouritism are prevailing in these camps.

Sir, here I shall cite instances to substantiate my point. I have got information of one Refugee home at Howrah where the manager is a cinema actor who cares more for his pleasure than for the well-being and welfare of the inmates of the refugee home. Even a doctor in charge of the camp who is the son of a very rich man is living there with his family including his father and they are all taking their food in the Government refugee camp. Number of bona fide refugees in the home has come down very much. There is a number of refugees with fictitious names and the authorities of the refugee camp, out of fear of detection, have kept up the number by admitting strikers of the Tramways who are getting daily hospitality in that refugee home. I am told that even the employees of the Bengal Laundry have been there—I am not sure whether in the capacity of servants or as guests. This is the picture of this Refugee Home. Now, I would ask my friends opposite to consider whether these refugee camps should not be liquidated and whether there can be any need for the continuance of these refugee homes. Sir, this Ministry has been termed communal. In a single year, I mean, 1946-47 about 4 lakhs of rupees has been given by this Ministry to extremely communal organisations exclusively for relief. Sir, I am quoting here the figures and names of the organisations which received grants for the year 1946-47:

	Rs.
Bengal Provincial Hindu Mahasabha	... 24,000
Bengal Civil Protection Committee	... 60,000
Bengal Medical Relief Co-ordination Committee	2,66,400
Jessore-Khulna Seva Samiti	... 48,000

Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Relief and Rehabilitation whether Government has got any account of expenditure of this huge sum from these organisations with vouchers and muster roll and if the account has been audited by Government auditors. Sir, so far as my information goes there is corruption and maladministration all through in the matter of distribution of relief by these organisations.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: What about other organisations of which you are a votary?

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: I understand from reliable sources that there is no account of expenditure and no muster roll or voucher is kept. The expenditure and distribution of relief of these organisations are rather arbitrary and they are done at their sweet will. Sir, so far as my information goes large sums of money are spent—rather mis-spent or mis-appropriated—by these organisations without proper scrutiny. I would like to tell the House another thing. It was my impression as well of many others that the milk which was distributed by way of relief to the poor and the famished babies and nursing mothers was supplied by the Red Cross Society but my information, which is a definite one, is that all the milk that was supplied was procured by Government at Government expense. Sir, here also the distribution was carried on by a set of organisations like those I have already mentioned. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister, who has been termed communal, why this Government gave so much indulgence to these communal organisations in the matter of relief? Why have they given so much money to them? Then, Sir, milk distribution canteens and centres have been opened throughout Bengal and I can tell you that 90 *per cent.* of these centres and canteens are being managed by the Hindus and the recipients from these centres and canteens are also 90 *per cent.* Hindus— (At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech)—If in spite of all this the Ministry is called communal, if we who have approved these things being on the side of Government are called communal, I would then say that communalism is inherent in the minds of my friends opposite and they may be called as rank communal of the worst order.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will reply to the comments made by the honourable members in the order in which they have spoken.

Dr. Protap Chandra Guha Roy has said that we spend very large sums of money on establishment. He has said that we are spending 45 lakhs on establishment under the head "Famine". That is not correct. The actual expenditure on establishment under the head "Famine" comes to Rs. 13,12,500 which works out at 4.5 per cent. of the total relief expenditure. So I should say that the charge he has made is based on misconception. He has said something which is far from truth and perhaps he has been mis-informed. While making the demand I have clearly shown how the sum of Rs. 45 lakhs is going to be spent on different heads. He has also raised several other points in his speech, but they are mostly concerned with the Civil Supplies Department. At the same time I can assure him that the Relief Directorate is aware of the fact that conditions in the province are not very good, and so far as his district of Faridpur is concerned, the price of rice there is going very high. This fact has already been brought to our notice by the District Magistrate of Faridpur, and we have, in our turn, brought this fact to the notice of the Civil Supplies Department. I may inform the House that immediately after the Budget session I propose to go to Faridpur to see things for myself and to make adequate arrangements for relief, if necessary.

I shall now deal with the points raised by Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta. So far as the condition in Satkania is concerned, she had seen me before and asked me to do something for that area. I have tried to accede to her

request as far as possible. I wrote to the District Magistrate to do the needful, and I hope something has been done by this time. So far as her other points are concerned, these mostly relate to the Civil Supplies Department, for example, supply of corrugated iron-sheets and cement, in which the Relief Department has no hand whatsoever. I would advise her to refer these matters to the Civil Supplies Department.

With regard to the remarks made by Mr. Bhattacharjee I can assure him that as we did last year as soon as we heard that there was any trouble or distress anywhere, we shall do the same thing again and rush in supplies to Mymensingh, if necessary. He has also suggested for the distribution of dry doles. We did it last year wherever we found that it was necessary and we shall do the same thing over again if we find that this will meet the situation.

So far as the suggestions made by Mrs. Husan Ara Begum are concerned, I am grateful to her for her kind words of appreciation. She has made certain suggestions which Government will consider very sympathetically.

Mr. Satish Chandra Bose has made certain suggestions some of which relate to the Civil Supplies Department. So far as the Relief Department is concerned, I can assure him that we shall do our very best.

So far as Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar's points are concerned, I can tell him that what he has said about the Howrah Relief Camp is to some extent true. I wanted to close down this camp from the 15th of this month to which there has been a lot of opposition. The other day Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee brought a bunch of letters and read out extracts from them in support of his contention that these camps should not be closed down immediately. To satisfy the Opposition the Chief Minister has proposed to hold a conference with the leaders of the Opposition day after tomorrow and in that conference it will be decided when these camps are going to be closed down. With regard to certain complaints that he has made, I may tell him that these things happened before the present Ministry came into office. As soon as we came into office we have thoroughly overhauled the Relief Directorate so far as Calcutta is concerned, and I hope in future there will be no occasion for such complaint. Besides, the Finance Department has very kindly appointed an officer of the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, and he is now in charge of accounts. He is going to audit the entire accounts of the Relief Directorate and I hope there will be no complaints in future so far as the accounts of the Relief Directorate are concerned.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions and commend the motion which I have moved.

The motion of Dr. Protap Chandra Guha Roy that the demand of Rs. 2,90,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,90,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 2,90,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The Motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, that a sum of Rs. 2,90,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the financial year 1947-48 was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-50 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 21st March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 21st March, 1947, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 207 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Exemption of Government servants from payment of Education Tax.

*174. **Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

- (a) if Government servants have been exempted from the payment of the Education Tax (under the Bengal Primary Education Act, 1930), and, if so, on what grounds; and
- (b) whether any other category of persons has been similarly exempted, and, if so, the grounds for such exemption?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzam-uddin Hosain): Under the Act, Government servants and employees of local bodies are not liable to pay the Education Tax.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether officers serving under the Wakf estates are exempted from paying the Education tax?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I am not aware of it—I want notice.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether persons serving under the Education Department are exempted from paying this tax?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Yes, all Government servants are exempted.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government servants and employees of the local bodies are personally not liable to pay it or their families not liable to pay?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: Personally they are not liable to pay.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this subtle distinction is being made between the people serving under the local bodies and the public in general?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The fact is this. There was a reference about the interpretation of the word "profession" in section 34 of the Primary Education Act of 1930—reference on behalf of the Government servants and on behalf of the employees of the local bodies—and the decision of the Government, on the best legal advice, was that the word "profession" does not cover these services and they were exempted.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government think it desirable to extend the tax to the people serving under the local bodies and the Government servants by modification of the Act?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have the intention in their mind to amend the Act in such a way that Government servants and employees of local bodies may be taxed under the Education tax?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: If that question be brought before the Government in proper form, of course Government will consider that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us if any Government officer, who besides being a Government officer holds some land and pays union rate or earns other income in a union or somewhere else, will even then be exempted as Government officer?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government considers that the children of Government servants should be educated free of charge or that they should receive no education at all?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: The whole thing hinges upon the interpretation, as I told you, of the word "profession" in the Act and the Government decision on the legal advice was that these Government servants do not come under the purview of the word "profession" and therefore they are exempted personally, but if they have got properties or other things which are taxable under the Act, they have to pay the tax.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether employees of local bodies include a union board clerk and a tax collector?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the primary school teachers are recognised as Government servants?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the amount collected last year under the Education tax and what would have been collected if these Government officers were not exempted?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: I want notice—I have not got the figures.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if really Government had intention to exempt Government officers and, if so, what are the reasons for exempting them?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: As I told you just before, there was a representation on behalf of the Government servants by certain school boards and the Collectors about the interpretation of the word "profession" in section 34 of the Act. You know that in section 34, professions are also taxed in addition to the landed properties and other things and according to the best legal opinion, Government servants do not come under the purview of the word "profession" and, therefore, they are exempted.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government had any legal opinion as to whether persons serving in non-Government institutions can also be taxed or should not be taxed—whether they come under the head "profession"?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: No. As I told you, Government had the best legal opinion from the Advocate-General and other people and they gave the opinion that the word "profession" did not include all these services.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My question was not that. My question was whether there had been any opinion taken on the point that non-Government servants serving in similar professions can be exempted or they are liable to pay tax under the word "profession".

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: There was a reference about this particular point of Government servants and there was a further subsequent reference for the employees under the local boards and these two points were referred to legal experts and they gave their opinion and then Government came to the decision as indicated.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking legal opinion as to whether non-Government servants can also be exempted from the operation of this Act?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: If the matter be brought before Government in the proper form, Government would be pleased to take it up.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what is the proper form?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ: As usual, by a motion or by representation by the school board or by the Collector.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of excluding the poor primary school teachers from the operation of this Act?

Mr. SPEAKER: That has already been answered previously.

Constitution of the Governing Body of the Edward College, Pabna.

***175. Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the constitution of the Governing Body of the Edward College, Pabna, and the tenure of appointment for its members;
- (ii) when this constitution was drawn up and sanctioned respectively by the Government as well as by the University of Calcutta;
- (iii) the number and names of the members of the Governing Body;
- (iv) the constituencies by which they have been appointed as such;
- (v) how long each of these members is in office as such;
- (vi) recurring and non-recurring grants made by the Government and University respectively to the said college;
- (vii) the number of students in several classes of the college and income from the tuition fees and endowments, if any;
- (viii) whether the college is running with a deficit at present;
- (ix) if so, average amount of annual deficit and how such deficit is made up;
- (x) whether there is any Honours class in the college; if not, why not; and
- (xi) whether there is any provision in the constitution of the Governing Body for representation of guardians of the students?

(b) If the answer to (xi) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking immediate steps for appointment of two representatives of the guardians on the Governing Body of Pabna Edward College?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(d) Is it a fact that the retiring Governing Body elects two representatives at the time of its retirement and the same persons are being continually elected as such for a number of years?

(e) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long these representatives are acting as members as such and what are the names of these members?

Mr. ABDUL KHALIQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzam-uddin Hosain): (a) (i) to (v) As this is a private college, the enquiry should be addressed to the Governing Body.

(vi) The amount of recurring maintenance grant received from Government is Rs.1,000 a month.

The amount of non-recurring grant received from Government through the University generally varies between Rs.1,500 and Rs.2,000 a year.

(vii) to (xi) and (b) to (e) *Vide* reply to (a) (i) to (v).

Different relief institutions of Government.

***176. Mr. SATINDRA NATH SEN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Relief Department be pleased to state whether among the 92 Destitute Homes, 113 Orphanages and 60 Industrial Workhouses maintained by the Government during 1945-46, there is any which accommodates exclusively members of any one community?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

- (i) what is their number;
- (ii) where are they situated;
- (iii) what is the total number of Muslims in each of the three categories;
- (iv) what is the number of Caste Hindus and Scheduled Castes in each of the three categories;
- (v) whether there is any which exclusively accommodates women;
- (vi) if so, what is their number;
- (vii) where are they situated;
- (viii) how are they managed;
- (ix) whether there is any official and non-official visitors to these institutions;
- (x) if so, whether they regularly visit and submit report;
- (xi) whether there has been any enquiry by responsible officials and non-officials into the working of these institutions; if so, what is the nature of the report;
- (xii) whether the inmates are allowed to earn for the work they render there;
- (xiii) if so, how do they spend their earnings;
- (xiv) whether they are encouraged to deposit their earnings in Postal Savings Banks and similar institutes;
- (xv) whether the relatives of the inmates are allowed to visit them freely and take them back in case parties so desire; and
- (xvi) what arrangement, if any, has been made for their education—moral, intellectual and vocational?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman): (a) There are at present 79 Destitute Homes, 58 temporary Orphanages and 36 Industrial Workhouses under Relief Department, but in none of them any distinction is made as regards the caste or community of any orphan in the matter of reception.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any report up till now has been received by the Government as to the working of these industrial workhouses?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Report is received from time to time.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these workhouses are being run on a self-supporting basis?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Of course that is the idea but that has not been done.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the utility of running these industrial workhouses any longer?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: To impart technical education.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the girl inmates of these orphanages have come of age?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have no such information.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that only well-trained weavers work at present in these industrial workhouses?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: There are also men employed in other avocations, namely, coir-making, leather-boot-making, etc.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in these workhouses where only weaving is going on, the well-trained workers had been appointed at the time of the famine to carry on work?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how many of these homes are meant exclusively for the accommodation of women?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: None.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many women destitutes are there in these homes?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I cannot give the number offhand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of setting apart separate destitute homes for accommodating women exclusively?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Government have no such thing under contemplation.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the weavers in these workhouses get much less than what they actually earn?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have no such information.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how long, generally speaking, these destitutes are in these destitute homes?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Some time from 1943.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any arrangement has been made for their rehabilitation, resettlement and restoration?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Oh yes.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the nature of the measures and the extent of the measures taken in this direction?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: These destitutes earn money in the destitute camps and there is a personal ledger account where their incomes are registered. So whenever they want to go away, their money is given to them and sometimes to those who cannot build their houses grants are given, or sheds are constructed for their habitation.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state exactly what measures have been taken to restore these destitutes to their original homes so that they might get back their normal surroundings?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: In these workhouses there are certain experts who impart vocational training and as soon as they learn those things, they go away and settle in their own homes.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the average age of boys and girls when they first enter into these homes, for example, in the Berhampore Home?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I cannot answer the question offhand.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state approximately the percentage of persons who have gone back and resettled under this arrangement?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it will be better for both the Government as well as for the weavers in these industrial workhouses if the weavers are allowed to go back to their homes with these looms?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the attitude of Government towards girl inmates of the Central Orphanage? What do they propose to do with the girls who have come of age and what is the attitude of Government in regard to them?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Government will try to rehabilitate them.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: In what way?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is obvious that the girls will be married.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: I want an answer from the Hon'ble Minister. They have attained marriageable age and some of them are running away. That is a scandal. That is why I wanted to put this question if he is aware that these things are taking place. I can mention of orphanages from where girls have run away. Government have to formulate a policy as to what they can do in regard to these girl inmates?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made a speech. What is your question?

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: My question is, what is the attitude of Government in regard to these girls?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is to rehabilitate them.

Mr. MD. KHUDDA BUKHSH: And I ask, in what way?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: By giving them in marriage (laughter).

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: To whom? (Laughter). Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total number of members accommodated in all these institutions taken together?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Nearly 18,000.

Troops employed by Government during Calcutta disturbances.

***177. Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state

(i) the number of troops available to the Bengal Government in Calcutta and its neighbourhood on the 16th August, 1946;

(ii) the number of troops used by the Bengal Government to quell the disturbances that took place in Calcutta and its neighbourhood in August, 1946;

(iii) the number of occasions when these troops had to open fire, the number of rounds fired and the number of casualties as a result of such firing; and

(iv) the number of troops and police personnel injured and killed, if any, in quelling the said disturbances?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) if the Bengal Government requisitioned more troops after the said disturbances in Calcutta for guarding rural areas;

(ii) if so, the number of troops so requisitioned;

(iii) if it is a fact that the Bengal Government refused to accept an offer of six battalions made by the Central Government after the Calcutta disturbances; and

(iv) if so, the reason thereof?

Mr. K. NASARULLA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) and (b) Government is not prepared to answer the question until the work of the Calcutta Riots Enquiry Commission is completed.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I draw your attention to a fact with regard to question No. 177? I think all the information asked for is not the subject matter of enquiry, as, for example, the number of troops available to the Bengal Government in Calcutta and its neighbourhood on the 16th August, 1946.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said the other day that even the Chairman of the Commission thought it fit not to proceed with the work of the enquiry any further and have suggested to the parties to think over the matter and decide whether they will proceed further with the enquiry or not. I think in the interest of the welfare of the Province you should not press this question. Of course I realise that there are many things which can possibly be replied to by Government without any prejudice to the Commission, but the main part of the question will remain unanswered. Therefore Government have thought that it is not expedient to answer the question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: But that is quite a different matter. It is not for the Government to avoid answers which they could have given.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not avoiding to answer the question. I may allow such questions some time later.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: We are not avoiding it, Sir.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: There is another thing that I would like to point out. You have been pleased to observe that as the matter is practically sub judice, that is why we should not put supplementaries. But again there is another point that if you think that in the larger interests of the Province you should not permit us to put questions, then that is an entirely different matter. If it is sub judice, we are prevented from putting questions under our rules—that is the constitutional position. But I understand that it would not be politic, if I may say so, to decide for ourselves and at least it would not be politic for the Chair to decide what would be in the interests of the Province and what would not be. In that case Government would take advantage of that ruling and evade answering questions on many matters.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly not. It is not for giving protection to Government that I have given that decision. It is far from my mind.

Proposed opening of a Union Dispensary in No. 2 Kalocho Union Board, police-station Hajiganj, Tippera.

***178. Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

- (i) that there is no Union Charitable Dispensary in the district of Tippera;
 - (ii) that the people residing in the distant interior places from different thana headquarters do not get any advantage or benefit of medical relief in their diseases;
 - (iii) that the No. 2 Kalocho Union Board, police-station Hajiganj (Tippera), are making an attempt to start a Union Dispensary at Bhatara within that union to give medical aid to the people of the locality;
 - (iv) that the necessary land and the building for the dispensary worth about Rs.4,000 have already been obtained as gift for the purpose; and
 - (v) that President of the No. 2 Kalocho Union and Secretary of the Dispensary Committee submitted a petition to the Hon'ble Minister concerned on the 31st January, 1947, stating the above facts and prayed for Government help in this matter?
- (b) If the answer to (a)(v) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving necessary help to the proposed Kalocho Union Dispensary?

Mr. S. A. SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a)(i) No; there are as many as 16 Union Board dispensaries in the Tippera district, receiving grant-in-aid from Government.

(ii) As there are so many Union Board dispensaries in the interior, there is no reason why people should not derive some advantage from them.

(iii) and (iv) Government are not aware.

(v) No such petition was received.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that most of these Union Board Dispensaries are without medicine or physician?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, that question does not arise.

MR. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is of opinion that 16 dispensaries are sufficient for the district of Tippera?

MR. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of making an enquiry into the petition submitted by the President and the Secretary of the Dispensary Committee, in which definite informations have been furnished?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think Mr. Kundu, that question is admissible, because when Government said that no such petition was received they must have said so after proper enquiry.

Regional Employment Exchange in Calcutta.

***179. Mr. MD. HABIBULLAH CHOUDHURY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether there is a Regional Employment Exchange in Calcutta with eight Sub-Regional offices in this Province;
- (ii) if so, the places where these sub-offices are located; and
- (iii) the number of gazetted officers for each of the Sub-Regional offices as well as for the office in Calcutta showing the number of such officers separately as Muslim and non-Muslim?
- (b) Is it a fact that 40 per cent. of the establishment cost for maintaining the offices referred to above is borne by the Bengal Government?
- (c) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the matter of appointment for those offices the Government of Bengal has ever been consulted?
- (d) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Communal Ratio Rules are maintained in the matter of appointment for those offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (a) (i) and (b) Yes.

(ii) (1) Asansol (Burdwan), (2) Serampore (Hooghly), (3) Barrackpore (24-Parganas), (4) Barisal, (5) Narayanganj (Dacca), (6) Comilla (Tippera), (7) Chittagong and (8) Darjeeling.

(iii) In each Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, there are one Manager, two Assistant Managers and one Assistant Public Relations Officer. In the Regional Employment Exchange, Calcutta, the sanctioned strength is one Manager, one Deputy Manager and 5 Assistant Managers (including 1 Lady Assistant Manager).

The communal composition of the holders of these posts is as follows:—

	Managers/ Deputy Managers.	Assistant Managers.	Assistant Public Relation Officers.
Caste Hindus	3	13	2
Scheduled Castes	2	2	1
Muslims	2	3	5
Other minority communities	1	1	1
Posts still vacant	2	2	..
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 9

(c) Yes.

(d) Recruitment to these posts is made on an all-India basis by the Government of India in the Department of Labour through the Federal Public Service Commission. The communal ratios are, therefore, fixed on an all-India basis; but every endeavour is made to post more Muslim officers to Muslim majority provinces. At the time these posts were advertised very few suitable Muslim candidates from Bengal applied with the result that Muslims from other provinces got selected and have been posted to their own provinces of domicile. The Regional Director has already invited the attention of the Government of India to the desirability of posting more Muslim officers to Bengal and, of the posts still vacant, a good percentage will be reserved for Muslims.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since when this Regional Employment Exchange is functioning in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry I cannot tell you offhand.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal receive any report on the working of these regional employment exchanges?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I can very frankly say that we get no reports, but we are trying to see that these regional employment exchanges function properly and Government of Bengal is kept in touch with them.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea what really are the functions of these regional employment exchanges?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The original idea was to rehabilitate and find employment for the ex-servicemen, and with that object in view the employment exchanges were established and are functioning. I am sorry I cannot tell you how far they have advanced.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total number of persons for any one single year registered in these offices and the percentage of these persons getting employment through these employment exchanges?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I would ask for notice.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that he receives no report on the working of these regional employment exchanges?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Possibly in the affirmative.

Mr. A. F. STARK: In view of the fact that the Government of Bengal has to bear 40 per cent. of the cost for the establishment of the Regional Employment Exchange, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of seeing that Government get monthly reports of its working?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have already informed the House that the Government of Bengal is trying to contact the Exchange and get reports so that we can know really what they are doing and what they propose to do.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the officers of Post Raid Information Services in Calcutta and the Industrial Areas have considerable experience in the matter of unemployment and finding jobs?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I think it is so.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that many officers, including Muslim officers, of the Post Raid Information Services applied for posts under this Regional Employment Exchange and were rejected?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, I do not know. I want notice.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: In view of the fact that as much as 40 per cent. of the cost of establishment of the Employment Exchange is borne by the Government of Bengal, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to effect parity between Hindus and Muslims in the Employment Exchange office?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already answered that he is trying to have control over the organisation.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any advisory board composed of non-official members to advise the Exchange?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what salaries the Manager and the Assistant Managers get?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say if he is aware that there was scarcely any time for the applicants to file applications when these posts were advertised?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It may be so. I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these officers are of any value to the applicants who have applied for the jobs in view of the salary they are drawing?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: How shall I know that?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a vague question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Scheduled rates of masonry work in the year 1945-46.

62. Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Works and Buildings Department be pleased to state—

- (a) what was the scheduled rate for 100 c.ft. of masonry work in the year 1945-46; and
- (b) what had been the lowest rate tendered by a contractor in the year 1945-46 in which his tender for masonry work was accepted in the Presidency Circle?

The Hon'ble Mr. DWARAKANATH BARORI: (a) The scheduled rates for 100 c.ft. of various kinds of masonry work in the year 1945-46 were as follows:—

- (i) First class brick work in lime mortar (3 : 1) in foundation and plinth (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.51 per 100 c.ft.

- (ii) First class brick work in lime mortar (3 : 1) in superstructure ground floor (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.52 per 100 c.ft.
- (iii) Add extra for each additional storey—Rs.1-8 per 100 c.ft.
- (iv) First class brick work in cement (3 : 1) in foundation and plinth (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.76 per 100 c.ft.
- (v) First class brick work in cement (3 : 1) in superstructure ground floor (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.77 per 100 c.ft.
- (vi) Add extra for each additional storey—Rs.1-8 per 100 c.ft.
- (b)(i) First class brick work in lime mortar (3 : 1) in foundation and plinth (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.45 per 100 c.ft. (Practically no lime brick work was done for want of lime.)
- (ii) First class brick work in superstructure (3 : 1) (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.46-8 per 100 c.ft. (Practically no lime brick work was done for want of lime.)
- (iii) First class brick work in cement (3 : 1) in foundation and plinth (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.75 per 100 c.ft.
- (iv) First class brick work in superstructure (3 : 1) (excluding carriage of bricks)—Rs.77 per 100 c.ft.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (b)(iv) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the work mentioned there was work in lime, mortar, cement, sand, or plinth, on the ground floor or first floor, etc.?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: This work was done in cement and sand. Three parts in sand and one part in cement on the ground floor.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to answer (a) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the authority for working out the scheduled rates?

Dr. BHOLA NATH BISWAS: The Superintending Engineer is the authority.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the difference between the scheduled rate and the lowest tendered rate?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: It is naturally settled by the Superintending Engineer. Even if the lowest rate is offered it is sometimes not accepted.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the reasons why there is a difference between the lowest tendered rate and the scheduled rate computed by the Government official concerned?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: From the point of labour and other things, the Superintending Engineer is the best authority to consider and he is the person to settle the whole thing.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an idea of the analysis how the rate was arrived at?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (b)(i) and (ii) will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us whether after acceptance of the tender there was no work or there was some work after acceptance?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: There was no work in lime brick work.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is a difference between the scheduled rate and the lowest tendered rate?

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: Sometimes accepted but sometimes not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we have been on this question for long.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I am sorry the Minister does not answer my question. As you will see Rs. 51 is the scheduled rate and the lowest tendered rate is Rs. 45, and I have been trying to find out as to why there should be this difference. The Minister has answered always something different.

Dr. BHOLANATH BISWAS: Sometimes there is difference, sometimes there is not.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: But all the time there is difference between the question and the answer!

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we have dealt with this question sufficiently. We can pass on to the next question.

Appointment of a Board of Conciliation to investigate into the conditions of work in textile industry.

63. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal has under contemplation the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry with a view to—

(a) investigate among other things into—

(i) condition of work and service of the labourers,

(ii) the existing labour welfare activities,

(iii) house accommodation available at present,

(iv) growth and working of Trade Union, and

(v) existing labour laws with a view to their amendment or augmentation;

(b) consider the possibility and desirability of introducing in the Province the scheme of profit-sharing among the employers and employed; and

(c) consider the possibility and desirability or otherwise of associating labour with management in the responsibility of considering and solving problems of the industry?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (a) Government have decided for the present to appoint a Board of Conciliation to investigate into conditions of work in the cotton textile industry.

(b) Government agree as to the desirability of introducing in the Province the scheme of profit-sharing among the employers and employed, but other things are more urgent—for instance a minimum wage.

(c) Yes. A Labour Advisory Board, in which both employers and workers' organisations will be represented, is under consideration of Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (a), whether he really means the Board of Conciliation or the Committee of Enquiry as desired in my question?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: In the answer I mentioned Board of Conciliation.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Then my question has not been answered. I really wanted to know about the appointment of a Committee

of Enquiry and the Hon'ble Minister says that Government has decided to appoint a Board of Conciliation. My question was not about a Board of Conciliation.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same purpose will be served.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: The Committee enquires and the Board of Conciliation conciliates. These are absolutely different functions. I am afraid it is a mistake, a bona fide mistake.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I may tell my honourable friend the answer. The Government of Bengal held a private conference very recently and a committee has been appointed which will go into the wages question and other things and then we will see what should be done.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: You mean to say that you will appoint a Committee of Enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That has already been appointed.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the function of this committee is going to be limited to cotton textile industry only?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It would be industrywise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: The answer mentions cotton textile industry. So it is a mistake.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: No mistake. After all it depends upon the terms of reference whether a Board of Conciliation or a Committee of Enquiry should be appointed. The terms of reference that are given in the Board of Conciliation refer to all the points that you have raised. So it amounts to the same thing.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the intention of Government to appoint similar Boards of Conciliation for every single industry?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, we have already appointed a Committee of Enquiry for cotton textiles and jute and for other industries, of course, committees will be appointed.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the functions of the Board of Conciliation will be confined to conciliating the points referred to it or will it take the initiative to institute enquiries and investigation into the labour conditions?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: For the time being it will enquire into the wages question and all other things and after that the committee will also enquire and try to conciliate on matters that arise out of the dispute between employers and employees of the different industries.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What will be the composition of the Board which the Government have decided to set up?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It will contain representatives of employers and employees.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how long Government will take in giving effect to his answer (c) that a Labour Advisory Board is under consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Very shortly, within a month's time.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: How long has this point been under consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It was under the consideration of Government for a long time but the actual shape has taken just recently.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he gave the House any assurances regarding the setting up of a Labour Advisory Board during the last Budget session?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I do not remember exactly what I said.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Before setting up a Labour Advisory Board, does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate calling a conference of representatives of both sides of the House as well as representatives of the employees and the employers?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, that will be considered.

Suffering of steamer passengers travelling between Chandpur and Goalundo.

64. Mr. RADHANATH DAS: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Transport) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that the passengers of the service steamer between Goalundo and Chandpur are suffering due to overloading of the steamer; and

(ii) that the steamer of the said service carries two trainloads of passengers to Chandpur and comes back to Goalundo carrying two or more trainloads of passengers?

(b) Do the Government propose to take up the matter with the steamer service authority of that service between Chandpur and Goalundo and thereby mitigate the sufferings of the said passengers?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a)(i) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the answer already given by me on the 7th February, 1947, in reply to starred question No. 11 asked by Mr. Nawab Ali on the subject.

(ii) Consequent upon the temporary closure of the Serajganj-Jagannathganj ferry service due to unfavourable *ghat* conditions at Serajganj, the steamer company has inaugurated a duplicate Chandpur Express service to cope with the additional passengers diverted from the Serajganj-Jagannathganj route.

(b) In view of the answer to (a)(ii) it is proposed to await the result of the additional facilities provided.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: With reference to (a)(ii) the Hon'ble Minister has said that a duplicate steamer service was begun in that route. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when that service was begun?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sometime in November.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Since that month November what is the position now in regard to over-crowding in that steamer?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: Sir, there is still over-crowding and we have still got a duplicate steamer running there.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Government wants to do with regard to mitigating the suffering of the steamer passengers?

Mr. K. NASARULLA: We are advising steamer companies and they are doing all they possibly can do.

Provincialisation of certain posts of District Board services.

65. Mr. NARENDRA SINCH SINCHI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that certain categories of posts of District Board services are going to be brought under the direct control of the Provincial Government;
- (b) if so, what are the posts which are going to be provincialised;
- (c) whether any scheme has been finally prepared by the Government in this respect; and
- (d) whether the Government have obtained the opinion and approval of the District Boards in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: (a) Certain proposals in this respect are now under consideration of Government.

(b) The proposals at present relate to the health services of the District Boards.

(c) No.

(d) Some District Boards, namely, Darjeeling, Bogra and Bakarganj have consented to provincialisation of the health services and for the present it is proposed to provincialise the health services of those District Boards only which have consented or do consent in future.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us how does he reconcile his answer (c) with (d)? He says there has been no scheme formulated but at the same time he says that in certain districts the health services will be provincialised. How does he reconcile these two?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: What is meant actually is this, that the scheme has not been finalised yet but the matter was put before a conference of Chairmen of District Boards and it was the opinion of the conference that there should be no provincialisation of health services, but then Government decided that provincialisation should be taken up only in the districts where the District Boards are consenting parties and accordingly the District Boards of Bogra, Bakarganj and Darjeeling have agreed to the introduction of the scheme envisaged in the Bore Committee's recommendations.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় স্বাস্থ্যবিভাগের অন্তর্গত করে বলবেন কি যে Public Health-এর বিনিমিত্ত Minister তিনিই কি বড়ো District Board-এর Chairman?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: আমার প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে যে মাননীয় স্বাস্থ্যবিভাগের নিচেই কি Bogra District Board-কে represent করেছিলেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: In the Conference the Vice-Chairman represented the District Board of Bogra.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the District Board Chairmen's Association has decided that they are not in favour of provincialisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I wonder if the honourable member was paying attention to me when I was replying to a question put by Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he insists on provincialisation in spite of that?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We are not going against the wishes of the Chairmen of District Boards. We are introducing this scheme only in districts where the District Boards agree to the introduction of the scheme. If only the honourable member sees the answer and pays attention to the replies given to the supplementaries, he will not waste the time of the House.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the District Board which will not be provincialised will not get any benefit from the scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Naturally. If the scheme is not introduced in any district how can the district get any benefit? If the honourable member thinks a second before he puts a question, it will save the time of the House.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to his reply (a), viz., "Certain proposals in this respect are now under consideration of Government" whether that includes the consideration of provincialising the executive posts of the District Boards as recommended by the Rowlands Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is there. The proposals relate to the health services.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: No, Sir. My question is with reference to answer (a) that certain proposals are under the consideration of Government regarding provincialising certain services. I am asking whether the question of provincialisation of the executive services as recommended by the Rowlands Committee is included.

Mr. SPEAKER: Answer (b) states that the proposals at present relate to the health services of the District Boards. This is the only service which is under the consideration of Government now.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. I may be permitted to explain this. At present Government propose only to provincialise the health services and that only in districts where the scheme will be introduced. That is with regard to the Bhore Committee's recommendations. The honourable member speaks of a recommendation of the Rowlands Committee where it has been recommended that certain executive posts also of District Boards should be provincialised and that the District Board should be liquidated. This practically is the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee and all the recommendations of that Committee are under examination of Government. No decisions, either final or tentative, have been reached.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has sent any circular to the various District Boards asking them as to whether they are willing to have their health services provincialised or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, we referred the matter not only to individual District Boards but also to the Association of the Chairmen of District Boards and this matter has been before the District Boards individually and collectively for a number of years.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not proposed to give effect to the recommendations of the Bhoze Committee and the Rowlands Committee unless the District Boards agree?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. That assumption is not entirely correct. But so far as the question of provincialisation is concerned it was felt by Government that if the District Boards did not agree it was no use and it would not be proper for Government to thrust a scheme into particular districts where the District Boards who are representing the people do not agree.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that it is difficult to raise standards of public health services in this Province or to cope with large scale epidemics so long as the public health services are under local bodies?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is strictly speaking a matter of opinion and I entirely agree with the honourable member.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the employees of the Health Departments of District Boards which agree to the scheme will be absorbed into Government service and will be treated as Government servants?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The ordinary implication of the word "provincialisation" means that their services will be transferred from Districts Boards to Government service. This is the ordinary meaning of an ordinary word.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: I wanted to know whether the present strength of the Health Departments of the District Boards will be included as Government servants.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: If the scheme is introduced in any districts not only will there be a necessity of retaining as many posts as now exist but there will be necessity of creation of a larger number of posts.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us why before formulating the final scheme Government want to provincialise the health services in those districts which have given consent? What is the reason? Without formulating the final scheme why do Government propose to provincialise the health services in those districts which have given consent?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The scheme, though not yet finalised, is there. Government have tentatively accepted the scheme, but Government cannot give final shape unless Government knows in what areas they are introduced. Now that the position has been clarified three districts will come in and the Government scheme will be based on that basis.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do we take it that even where there will be a large number of districts which do not agree to provincialisation, the uniformity in the Province will be destroyed and only those districts which will agree to provincialisation will be under Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That has already been replied to.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:—I mean to say that if there be any District Board which does not agree to the provincialisation of health services, there will be provincialisation in other districts which will agree. I want to know if Government will abandon the scheme then.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is clear from the answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: May I clarify, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary. You have stated more than once.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I want to clarify the position a little more. There is no question of abandoning the scheme. I agree that there will be to start with no uniformity, but it is Government's firm conviction that if the scheme be introduced at least in three districts of the Province, the people will be able to understand and realise the benefits conferred on them by the introduction of the scheme. Then there will be a desire from all other districts for introduction of the scheme and Government feel that the District Boards will be forced to come into the scheme because the pressure from the people will be so great that no District Board which is a democratic body will be able to resist that demand. Therefore Government feel that this will practically be a thin end of the wedge. I agree with the honourable member that District Boards are reluctant to part with power and administrative control over public health department, and that is why they are at present reluctant. But it is Government's firm conviction that after the introduction of the scheme the people at large will realise the benefits that will come from the scheme and the hands of the District Boards will be forced and the whole scheme will then be introduced in the Province.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to which grades of the Provincial Service these new posts are going to be absorbed?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the answer where I have said that the scheme has not been finalised yet.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি স্যানিটারি assistantকে চাকুরি হতে discharge করা হয়েছে এবং কেন হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: They were of course served with discharge notice but their services are now being retained for another period. I do not know for how long—it may be for one month or two months, but they are not being discharged immediately.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যে সব Sanitary assistantদের discharge করা হয়েছে তাঁরা বাইনা এবং dearness allowance নিয়ে মাসে ১১০ পাউন্ডে কিছু মাসের এখন নতুন করে নেওয়া হবে তাঁদের মাত্র মাসে ৫০, সেবার বাবস্থা করা হয়েছে কিনা?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I have to ask for notice because strictly speaking that subject is not dealt with by this question.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why these 3 districts only, namely, Darjeeling, Bogra and Bakarganj, have been selected for provincialisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I wonder if the honourable member was sleeping when this question was answered.

Maulvi AKBAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that by this diarchical system of control over the health services, the District Boards will lose their control over the health officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, if the health services are provincialised, the health officers will necessarily be under the direct control of Government and they will be Government officers and will no longer be officers of the District Board.

Maulvi AKBAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if the Government takes over the dual control over the health officers in the districts, whether the District Boards will not be in a false position with regard to health and other matters?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion. What is your question? You are arguing I think.

Maulvi AKBAR ALI: My question is that if this diarchical form of administration is introduced the District Boards will lose some influence over the health officers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you contemplate the present administration or the administration after provincialisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: He speaks of the administration after provincialisation.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now time for prayer and I would adjourn the House just now.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: There are still 2 or 3 minutes—

Mr. SPEAKER: No, 5-30 is the prayer time. You can however put one question.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: In view of the answer that after the health services are provincialised much money will be spent over the Public Health Department, does the Hon'ble Minister think of the feasibility of spending this amount of money through the District Boards and see what results it brings.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: This very question was also raised in the Conference.

Mr. SPEAKER: Members here are not supposed to know what questions were raised in the Conference.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I forgot that point. As you were present there I was going with that background, but the same question was raised there. The point is this. At the present moment the District Boards have the primary responsibility for looking after the public health of the districts but Government feel that they are unable to discharge that responsibility because of paucity of funds. Government have also their own staff in the districts and they spend money there for their own officers, namely, Subdivisional Health Officers, Health Assistants and Sanitary Assistants. That is a dual system which is not working satisfactorily and there is wastage of money because there are at present two establishments. Therefore after provincialisation when the health services will come under one control the amount of money that is spent will be much better utilised. Apart from that, another aspect of the question has not been realised. It is that both the curative and preventive sides will be amalgamated as envisaged in the Bhoré Committee's Report. At present the curative side and the preventive side are separate but after the introduction of the proposed scheme both the preventive aspect and the curative side of the scheme will be amalgamated and co-related in a much better manner.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: I can put volumes of supplementary questions but you will not allow me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will not convert this House into a District Board Chairmen's Conference. (Laughter.)

(Questions over.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

(After adjournment.)

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,53,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration".

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the general policy.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, may I suggest one procedure which may be adopted if you consider it to be satisfactory. This procedure was followed by your predecessors, Mr. Azizul Huque as well as by Mr. Syed Nausher Ali. The procedure is this: All the cut motions would be moved at a time one after another without delivering any speech and after that honourable members would participate in the debate. I think that would have been a better procedure if you would be pleased to accept it. It is not difficult to adopt that procedure.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: May I also suggest that that would be a better procedure. Sir, at the present moment members from the Opposition move the cut motions and generally speak on them one after another. The debate is always led by the Opposition and then members on the Government Bench speak one after the other. The previous practice was better because that would have allowed a more balanced debate. If the practice of allowing one member from the Opposition and another member from Government side and so on is accepted it would lead to a more balanced debate. I think the suggestion of Mr. Abdul Hafiz may be accepted.

Mr. SPEAKER: Some of the motions are not debated at all.

Mr. MUHAMMED ISRAIL: Sir, as soon as a cut motion is moved, it becomes the property of the House. A member may move a motion without any speech. Any member can speak on any motion moved in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as members from the Government side are concerned they are not prejudiced in any way because all the motions are moved and then members from Government side get opportunity to discuss the motions as well as deliver speeches generally.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: There is this difference that if all the motions are moved then the entire thing is before the House, and the members speaking from the Government side can speak generally on all or any of the motions that have been placed before the House. But if one motion is moved, he can speak only on the motion that is before him.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not followed me, Mr. Israil. These motions are moved by the members in whose names they stand and then they support the motions by their speeches; and then members on the Government side get opportunities to discuss all or any of the motions as they like.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: But then there will be no balanced debate.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Before a motion is moved, a member on the Government side cannot deliver a speech. For unless a motion is moved it cannot become the property of the House and no debate can take place on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I could not follow you because I have been repeatedly saying that all the motions should be first moved by the members in whose names they stand and then they will speak in support of those motions. Afterwards members on the other side deliver their speeches. So they get opportunity to discuss all the motions or any of the motions as they like. If I call upon a member from this side (Government side) before these motions are moved, I feel that they will be prejudiced because they will not be able to touch upon all the motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The only disadvantage in that case is that after, say, eight members from the Opposition have spoken, five or six members from the Government side have to speak one after another. But the practice followed previously was advantageous in the sense that members from both the sides could speak alternately.

Mr. SPEAKER: Advantageous to whom?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: For the whole House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not for the whole House, because a member in whose name a particular motion stands does not get an opportunity to discuss and explain his motion. If that procedure is adopted, he may not have an opportunity to explain his motion before the other side gets an opportunity to criticise it because there may not be any time at my disposal to allow him to do so.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়, মুসলীম লীগ পরিচালিত লীগ মন্ত্রী-মহলী সাংসদ পাকিস্তানী শাসন নীতি চালাচ্ছেন। প্রথম যেদিন “লড়কে লেঙ্গে পাকিস্তান”, “মাবকে লেঙ্গে পাকিস্তান” বলে চীৎকার তিন, সেদিন বুয়ে উঠতে পারিনি পাকিস্তান জিনিঘটা কি! কোন দিন এরা পরিষ্কার করে ব্যক্ত করেননি কোন মহামূল্য অমৃতময় জিনিষের নাম পাকিস্তান। কেবল “পাকিস্তান” “পাকিস্তান” বলে চীৎকারই কবেছেন। কিন্তু সেজপিয়াবের কথায় What is in a name! That which we call rose will smell as sweet by another name. আজ পাকিস্তানের সুবাস ও মহিমা দিগ-দিগন্তে ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে এবং বাজারী মর্মে মর্মে বুঝেছে পাকিস্তানী শাসননীতি কি।

পাকিস্তানী শাসননীতির উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে পূর্ণবড়ে সংখ্যালঘু হিন্দু সম্প্রদায়কে সম্পূর্ণরূপে ধ্বংস করা এবং পশ্চিম বঙ্গের সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ সম্প্রদায়কে যেন তেন প্রকাষে সংখ্যালঘিতে পরিণত করা। পৃথিবীর কোথাও ধর্মের উপর ভিত্তি করে রাষ্ট্র ব্যবস্থা নাই। বাংলায় হিন্দুর সংখ্যা মুসলমানদের প্রায় সমান। তথাপি বাংলার রাষ্ট্র ব্যবস্থা বাজারীর জন্য হবে না, হবে কেবল মুসলমানদের জন্য।

বাজারী হিন্দু-মুসলমানের পূর্ণ পৃথক এক। ভাষা এক, বস্ত্র ধূতের মধ্যেও তারা এক সাথে বেঁচে আছে। বিদেশীর শোষণ ও শাসনে তারা দুতসর্গ হইয়েছে। যমুত্বের মহামারীতে দেশ ছেয়েছে। ডবু ও তারা ঠিক আছে, যেরনি। পৃথিবীতে বাজারীজাতি বলে গণ্য করার তাদের অনেক কিছু ছিল। কিন্তু পাকিস্তানী শাসনে আজ বাজারীজাতির ডবিঘাৎ তবসাবুত। পাকিস্তানী শাসনের নীতি ও স্বার্থাভিলাষ পাগলের নীতি এক। দেহের এক অঙ্গ কেটে কেলে কেউ অপর অঙ্গের উপকার করতে পারে না। আজ হিন্দু-বহু যদি সকল ও হর তথাপি মুসলমান জনসাধারণের উপকার হবে না।

আইন ও নৃশাস্তি রক্ষা করা শাসন বিভাগের সর্গপ্রধান ও সর্গপ্রধান কর্তব্য। প্রজা যত নীনতমই হ'ক না কেন বর্ষ ও বড় নিপুণে তার রক্ষার তার শাসন বিভাগের। কিন্তু বাংলায় আজ যে অস্বাভাবিকতা চলছে তা পৃথিবীর ইতিহাসে অতুলনীয়। প্রকাশ্য দিবালোকে এখানে পাকিস্তানী ভ্রমলোকগণ “লড়কে লেঙ্গে”, “মাবকে লেঙ্গে” জিনীর তুলে দিনের পর দিন জনপদের পর জনপদ লুণ্ঠিত ও অগ্নিস্রব করেছে। বনী-পরিহিত নিপুণে ইচ্ছামত সকলকে জোরপূর্বক ধর্মান্ধবিত্ত করেছে। নারীত্বের পাইকারীভাবে শ্রীলজা হানি করেছে। প্রাণ

অনুমারী বেছে বেছে অধিবাসীদের হত্যা করেছে। শাসন বিভাগ তা তুলে ফিরে বোঁধেছেন। এই বিরাট ঘটনায় শাসন বিভাগ পরিপূর্ণভাবে ভড়িত আছেন। তা না হলে পূর্ণাঙ্গ আর্ন্ত নরনারীর সাহায্য ভিক্ষার উদ্যোগ করণশীল করেন না কেন? যে মানুষ তেগে ধুমায় তাকে কোন দিন জাগান যায় না।

আজ বাংলার জনপদ নিরাপদ নয়। পথঘাট নিরাপদ নয়। নৌকা ও ট্রেন জোর করে ধামিয়ে নিরীহকে প্রহার, সম্পত্তি লুণ্ঠন করা হয়, বা বোনকে হরণ করা হয়, প্রাণে বধ করা হয়। আজ সাম্প্রদায়িক বৈষম্য-সম্পন্ন শাসন বিভাগের কর্মচারিগণ হিন্দু-মুসলমানে পার্থক্য করেন। যে অপরাধে এক সম্প্রদায়ের কঠোর সাজা হয়, সে অপরাধে অপর সম্প্রদায় খালাস পায়। যে অপরাধে একজন bail পায় না, সে অপরাধে অপর bail পায়। যে অপরাধে একজনে পাইকারী ভবিষ্যৎ বাধা হয়, সে অপেক্ষা বহুগুণ অপরাধেও অপর স্থানে পাইকারী ভবিষ্যৎ বাধা হয় না। উপরন্তু অকলে ১৪৪ ধারা জারি থাকলেও অত্যাচারীদের জন্য তা শুল্ক হয় না। একের পক্ষে যে অপরাধ পুনর্নিষেধ গৃহণীয় অপরাধের পক্ষে তা নয়।

উগ্র সাম্প্রদায়িকতা শাসন বিভাগে চরম দুনীতি সৃষ্টি করেছে। চাকরীতে বয়াল বা উন্নতি আজ যোগ্যতার উপর নির্ভর করে না। Competitive examination—শ্রুতিযোগিতাবলক পরীক্ষার বালাই নাই। সাম্প্রদায়িক ধর্মজ্ঞানের আবরণ সৃষ্টি করে তাহ আড়ালে অতি উচ্চপদস্থ শাসন বিভাগের কর্মচারী পর্যন্ত অতি লোম্বা কাজ স্বচ্ছন্দে করতে পারেন। আজ ভাতিস্রোহী বোরভব স্বার্থপর লোকদের স্বার্থে ধূপকাণ্ডে জাতির মহাকল্যাণ বলি পড়ছে। দুনীতি আজ শাসন বিভাগের পবতে পবতে, রুদ্ধে রুদ্ধে। পাকিস্তানের নেতা কাদেরে আজম জিন্দা বলছেন “মুসলমানের আদর্শ, লক্ষ্য, মূলনীতি এবং কর্মপন্থা হিন্দুদের আদর্শ, লক্ষ্য ও কর্মপন্থা হতে ভিন্ন পৃথকই নহে—এদের মধ্যে সংঘর্ষ বিদ্যমান। কাজেই উভয়ের মধ্যে মিলেমিশে ও সহযোগিতার ভিত্তিতে কাজ চালাইবার কোন সম্ভাবনা দেখা যায় না।” কিন্তু এই দুটি পৃথক জাতি ভোটার ব্যাপারে, রাষ্ট্র শাসনের ব্যাপারে এক হতে না পারলেও চোরা কারবারে কিরূপ পরস্পরের প্রেমে, সেবায, সহযোগিতায়, আদর্শ, লক্ষ্য ও কর্মপন্থায় মিলেমিশে এক জাতীয়র লাভ করেছেন তাহ তুরি তুরি দৃষ্টান্ত আছে। আমার জেলার একটি দৃষ্টান্ত উল্লিখ।

আমাদের জেলার লীগপহী মুসলমান জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের সঙ্গে একজন ভূতপূর্ণ হিন্দু রাজবন্দীর (detenue) হরিহর-আছা। এই রাজবন্দীর পৃথিবীর অষ্টম আশ্রয়। রাজবন্দী কোন দিন রায় সাহেব অথবা Honorary Magistrate হয় শুনেছেন? জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের সহযোগিতায় এ দুটোই তিনি হয়েছেন। তাইয়ের বেনামিতে বহু কট্টোলের মালিক হয়ে ইনি অবস্থা ফিরিয়েছেন, এবং এই সূত্রেই ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট সাহেবের সঙ্গে এর ভাণ্ড ও লহর্য মহরব্য। Sadar Subdivisionএর কাপড় ও সূতার dealership এর এক ডাইরের নামে ইনি নিয়েছেন। গুণাবৈতুকলেই দেখবেন, আমি নিজে ঢুকে দেখেছি একটি ঘরের উপর লেবেল লাগান “D. M.’s Reserve. No entrance for the public.” কাপড়ের নুতন চালান এলেই ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট সাহেব সতর্ক ওগায়ে যান এবং যত ভাল ভাল সাড়ী, ধুতি, ছিট সব বাছাই করে কেনেন। তাঁর Reserveএ এসব জমা হয়। শতকরা ২০।৩০ ভাগ পর্যন্ত এইভাবে Reserve হয় ও তাঁর ইচ্ছানুসারে বিক্রি হয়। কোম্ব কুড় কমিটিতে এর হিসাব পর্যন্ত দেওয়া তিনি প্রকার যত্ন করেন না। অগতঃ Bengal Cotton and Cloth Yarn Control Order of 1945 পরিষ্কাররূপে নির্দেশ দিয়েছে যে কোন কাপড় ও সূতা নিয়ম মতক (duly constituted) কুড় কমিটি বারকং ছাড়া বিক্রি করা যাবে না। এযাবৎ সময় সাবডিভিসনে যত সূতা এসেছে জও ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট সাহেব তাঁর confidential clerk বারকং তিনি নিজে বিক্রয় করেছেন। এক বেল সূতার control দর ২৫০ টাকা কিন্তু চোরাবাছারে তার দর ১,৫০০ টাকা। কুড় কমিটির প্রতাপ, Bar Associationএর প্রতাপ কাপড় ও সূতার হিসাব চেয়ে চোরাকারবার বন্ধ করার দাবী জানিয়ে enquiry demand করা সত্ত্বেও তিনি সব অগ্রাহ্য করেছেন। সম্পূর্ণ বৈধায়িনীভাবে তিনি এই কাপড় ও সূতা এবং সূতা-উৎপন্ন কাপড় বিক্রি নিজ দায়িত্বে করেন। কোন কুড় কমিটিতে তিনি এর হিসাব পর্যন্ত দেন না। যে সূতা ১৯৪৫ সালে যে মাস থেকে ঐ বৎসরের ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত এসেছে তাতে অনুমান লক্ষ ৭৩ কাপড় হবার কথা। এ থেকে সময় বহুকুমা বিক্রি হয়েছে। একবার amuggle হবার সময় জেলার কয়েক স্থানে সূতা বন্ডা গড়ে। জেলার এ নিয়ে খুব হৈ চৈ। ২২শে ডিসেম্বর ১৯৪৫ তারিখে কলকাতার বার এসোসিয়েশন্স প্রতাপ করলেন—

“Resolved that on a full consideration of the matters revealed at the meeting, this Association is strongly of opinion that the recent find of bales of yarn in some parts of the district, e.g., Hanskhali, Nabadwip and

Krishnagar, should be followed up by vigorous and sifting enquiry and investigation by the Enforcement Branch, with a view to bring the offenders to book and to put an effective check on the prevailing black-marketing in yarn and textiles in this district.

"The Association is further of opinion that the cloth supply position cannot be improved substantially, unless the vice and corruption be suppressed with a strong hand."

এই প্রস্তাবের নকল সর্বত্র পাঠান হয়েছে কিন্তু কোন ফল হয় নাই। Magistrate সাহেব সব হুশ up করিয়ে দিয়েছেন। বহু আশোলনের ফলে Magistrate সাহেব সম্প্রতি সন্দের সাবডিভিসনের সমুদয় সূতা নেন না তবে ৬০ কাউন্টের উপর সমুদয় সূতা নেন। এক নূতন ফর্মী বের করেছেন। D. I. Rule-এর সাহায্যে শান্তিপুরের তাঁতের কাপড় জেলার বাহিরে বিক্রয় করা বন্ধ করে দিলেন। তাঁতের কাপড়ের control দেই। শান্তিপুরের তাঁতিরা খুব উচ্চ মূল্যের কাপড় তৈরী করে। অবহাঙ্গপু লোকেরা ছাড়া এ কাপড় কিনতে কেউ পারে না। কেবল নদীয়া জেলার স্বরজন এ কাপড় কিনতে পারে? দেশ-বিশেষে এ কাপড় বিক্রি হত। সূতার অভাবে তাঁতিদের ইতিপূর্বে যখন হাফাকার উঠেছিল তখন সশপথ ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট সাহেবের কাছে নাগিন জানালে তিনি উপহাস করে মাটিকেটে কুজি করার জন্য তাঁতিদের উপদেশ দিয়াছিলেন। এইবার নিজে ব্যবসা করলেন। কতকগুলি হাতের লোকের মারফৎ তিনি কাপড় তৈরী করিয়ে নিজের বাড়ী নিয়ে আসেন এবং গোপনে বিক্রি করেন। তাঁর বাড়ীতে যে কাপড় আসে তা কোর্টে পর্যন্ত সরকারী আসানীর মুখে জেরায় প্রকাশ পেয়েছে। তাঁর জিপ্সি গাড়ীতে করে গোপনে এ কাপড় কলকাতায় যায়। সমস্ত বিষয়টি একটি first class scandal, এবং আবি চ্যালেঞ্জ করে বদলি কোন নিরপেক্ষ কমিটি তদন্ত করলে হিন্দু-মুসলমান দুই জাতিতে চোরাকারবারে কি অপূর্ণ সহযোগিতা এবং জেলার শাসন বিভাগের উচ্চতম কর্মচারী এর সঙ্গে কি ভাবে জড়িত তা নিশ্চয়ই প্রকাশ পাবে।

আজ সাড়ে-তিন বৎসর নানা অজুহাতে ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট সাহেব এ জেলা ত্যাগ করেননি। হিন্দু জাতিতে পাকিস্থানী শাসনে কায়শপন্থ্য করার কি যুক্তি দেখান জানি না, তবে তাঁর transfer-এর ছকুম হলেই দেখি তা নাকচ হয়। এবার retire করার প্রস্তাবে full pay-এ তাঁর ছয় মাস ছুটি gazetted হ'ল। নূতন একজন Magistrate-এর appointment gazetted হওয়া সঙ্গেও নদীয়ায় বহাল হয়ে তদ্বিপত্তপা নিয়ে এসে পর্যন্ত গেলেন। কিন্তু কি মন্তব্য করেন জানি না। এর ছুটি cancel হ'ল। ইনি full pay-এ gazetted ছুটি নিলেন না। যেখানে এত মনু দেখান তিনি ত্যাগ করেন কি করে, অতএব যিনি এসেছিলেন তিনি আবার তদ্বিপত্তপা নিয়ে অন্যত্র গেলেন।

একজন সারকেল অফিসার কি রকম জুলুম চালাতে পারে তা শুনুন। নদ্রিবর যৌলরী শাহজুদ্দিন আমেন যখন ডেডাশাহা গান তখন তাঁর অভাধ নাম জন্য টাল দেননি বলে হিন্দু বাহাদুরীদের ভয়ে ও কতিপুত্র কথবা বলে প্রকাশে। শাসান। অতঃপর বিলাস রায় আগরওয়ালার নামে চৌকিলারী টাক্স ধার্য হয়েছিল—২৫ টাকা সেটা করলেন ৮৪ টাকা, উপেক্ষা নাথ কুওর নামে টাক্স ধার্য হয়েছিল সাড়ে তিন টাকা, সেটা হ'ল ৮৪ টাকা। ললিত মোহন কুওর নামে টাক্স ধার্য হয়েছিল ২৫ টাকা সেটা বাড়িয়ে করলেন ৮৪ টাকা, তাঁর ছেলে লক্ষী-নারায়ণ কুওর তার নামে কোন টাক্স ছিল না, তাই উপরও ৮৪ টাকা টাক্স ধার্য করলেন। আরও কয়েক জনের নামে সর্বোচ্চ টাক্স ৮৪ টাকা ধার্য হয়েছে। ডেডাশাহা মারোয়াড়ী সম্মেলন ৪০ মণ করে আটা পেত তা বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হ'ল। কুজলাল আগরওয়ালার নামে ধান ও চাউলের যে wholesale dealership ছিল তাও রদ করে দেওয়া হ'ল।

Mr. BIPIN BIHARI GANGULI: Sir, I support the previous speaker. One most unwelcome feature of the Budget is that it imposes all sorts of burden on poor people, be they Hindu or Muslim. The Muslim League has reaped by the patronage it has received from the British Government. The Budget of Bengal, is it of Hindu or Muslim,—is it of the Muslim League or the Hindu Mahasava? It has been declared that the Budget has been prepared in accordance with the principle and plan of the Muslim League. The social and economic system has been thrown out of gear and it found expression in the food shortage, general discontent, industrial unrest and communal dissensions. The entire structure is shaky and stabilisation is the call of the hour. Education, prohibition, agriculture, public health and industries each one of the items has not received its share although some of these had improper leanings for corruption and nepotism.

The Budget of this type of communal Government could not be expected to be of a progressive kind which should have aimed at the uplift of the peasantry and labour. These servants of the people who are paid by the people, masquerade as masters of the people. Sir, I shall give you one instance how communal-minded administration happens to work. Sometime ago in Dinajpur district, three Subdivisional Officers in three subdivisions, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, and one District Controller, all of them Muslims, were simultaneously in Government service. Hindus did not have any objection to that. Mr. B. K. Acharyya, I.C.S., was posted at Dinajpur as D. M. and this posting was gazetted on the 12th December, 1946, and he was due to join on the 14th December, 1946. But to our utter surprise this order was cancelled and Mr. H. Turab Ali, I.C.S., was posted at Dinajpur as District Magistrate. Within the space of these two days, the arrangement was changed. Mr. B. K. Acharyya, who is senior to Mr. H. Turab Ali, was posted as an Additional District Magistrate at Krishnagar with Mr. Nasiruddin as District Magistrate. All this transfer, posting, etc., were not followed according to good principle, economy or decency. This has been done as if it is only a household business. In this connection, I have got documentary evidence of good faith of a member of the Muslim League. A confidential letter written by an M.L.A. to the Chief Minister is with me requesting him to send a Muslim District Magistrate in place of a Hindu whose name was already gazetted.

Not only that; the poor labour and peasant's representative Ministry with their satellite administrative machinery are fed by these poor people to kill them, to shoot them and even it is reported to dishonour their women as in Susang, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Basirhat, etc. The Civil Supply Department has been created not for the supply of anything at a cheaper rate to the civil people but to the privileged persons, who become fat-bellied having to help black market. The Budget of the Government of Bengal should have been used specially in development and constructive work. The whole agriculture of more than twelve unions of Barupur, Sonarpur, Bhangar and Canning P. S. is doomed for want of excavation of the Piyali and Budyadhari rivers. The Scheme is lying with the Government. This should at once be taken up. The whole agriculture of half of Kulpi P. S., Diamond Harbour subdivision becomes doomed for not having constructed any gate upon Jhikuria. There is a great movement going on for the same. Khas-mahal officers and S.D.O., Diamond Harbour, many times visited the place; but the poor people inhabiting that locality are poorer today, there is none to look after them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many peasants of at least ten districts have been tortured, killed or put into prison. These they are to endure only for the demand that they will not die without food as before. What has happened in the industrial belt, in the Municipal constituency from where Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy and myself have come to the Assembly? The half-starved workers, times without number approached the authority, Labour Commissioner and Hon'ble Labour Minister to have their cases redressed. This Ministry, the representatives of dying Bengal come forward to help the capitalists, the millowners with guns, so that the strikers may be demoralised and the strikes may break up. I have lots of documentary proof and from most of them I personally know that the repression up till now is going on initiated by the Police for whose service to the people, huge amount has been budgetted.

At Palta Bengal Enamel Works, the workers went on a legal strike. But the S.D.O., Barrackpore, served an externment order upon the President of the Labour Union without any cause whatsoever. This is the public service of the type S.D.O. does and a fat budget is kept for him; in spite of repeated representations to the Labour Commissioner and to the Hon'ble Labour Minister even when I personally came to him, the strike went on for more than two months and cases had been instituted against the workers.

The Police is taking very active part in unnecessary prosecution. What happened at Jus Alexander at Kidderpore? The owner granted leave for ten days according to the amended Factory Act and next moment cancelled it. So the workers went on strike. The Government took the side of the owner who broke the Government law in not granting leave to the workers. The Police arrested many persons, prosecuted even Dr. Mrs. Maitryee Bose, an eminent Labour leader of the country. The strike had been called off by the intervention of the Hon'ble Labour Minister but yet the prosecution case is being conducted by the Police.

Next thing, Sir, in my constituency which is also Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy's constituency, the Garden Reach Municipality, the District Magistrate, 24-Parganas, has broken the first term of settlement after their recent strike about their strike-pay. The workers were assured that their case would be judged in the light of previous settlement when they got strike-pay. Now they are being refused their pay, another strike is threatening in near future. Sir, the strike of Vanasta Factory is continuing for more than two months. Similar strikes are continuing in Texmaco and head office of the Birla Brothers. Dock strike has created wide-spread alarm.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ganguli, your time is up. I don't think I can allow you more time.

Mr. BIPIN BIHARI GANGULI: I have finished, Sir, only a few words.

These are not only examples; there are many others including the Tramways Company, Limited. Everywhere the Government failed to support the cause which they presumed to represent. Everywhere the Government is failing to do justice to the workers and peasants of Bengal.

Maulana MD. ABDULLAHEL BAQUI: শ্রীকার মহোদয়, মি: গাঙ্গুলী মিনাক্ষপব সহচর যা বলেন তা ঠিক নয়। আমি বলতে চাই যে সেখানে তিনজন S. D. O. ব মহো দুইজনই হিন্দু, S. P. হিন্দু, স্বতরাং তিনি যে বলেন তিনজনই মুসলমান সেটা সত্য নয়। আগে যা অফিসার ছিল বর্তমানেও তাই আছে।

Mr. BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI: আমি এই কথা বলছিলাম যে সেখানে.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow any discussions on this matter.

Mr. PROVASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to release all political prisoners, convicted in connection with the 1942 August revolution, to achieve independence of India from British domination, and to withdraw restrictions and warrants of arrest still pending against persons, alleged to be connected with the said revolution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমার এই বাংলাদেশ স্বাধীনতার অগ্নিসূত্র। যখন সারা ভারতব্যব স্বাধীনতার কথা চিন্তাও করে নাই তখন বাঙালী আত্মতোলা তরুণ যুবকেরা স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্নে বিভোর হয়ে স্বাধীনতা লাভের জন্য অগ্নিসূত্র হয়েছিল। তারা স্বাধীনতার সাধনা করেছিল পার্কে বক্তৃতা কবে নয়, Assembly তে বক্তৃতা করে নয় তারা স্বাধীনতার সাধনা করেছিল নিজেদের গুপ্ত, ভাঙা বন্ধ দিয়ে। এইভাবে স্মৃতির, পীনের গুপ্ত পুণ্ডিতের সঙ্ঘ হয় বাংলা দেশে, ১৯২০ সাল পর্যন্ত এই আন্দোলন চলে। প্রথমে এই আন্দোলন গীতার ছিল বুদ্ধির করেকটি তরুণের মধ্যে। তার পর ১৯২০ সালে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর ভারতের রাজনীতিতে আগমনের পর যে স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলন শুরু হয় স্বেচ্ছা'জনসাধারণের মধ্যে চড়াইয়া পড়ে এবং তারপর ১৯২১ সালে অসহযোগ আন্দোলন, ১৯৩০ সালে Civil Disobedience Movement কর্ণাং আইন অসহযোগ আন্দোলন এবং নব্বইশে ১৯৪২ সালে ভারত ত্যাগ কর আন্দোলন মহাত্মা গান্ধীর নেতৃত্বে কংগ্রেসের আজনে এই দেশে শুরু হয়। আমরা গান্ধীজীর আন্দোলনের ভিতর এই বাংলাদেশে দেশবন্ধু, চিত্তরঞ্জন, দেশপুত্র হতীন্দ্র বোহন এবং দেশপৌরষ নেতাজী স্বভাষ চক্রকে পেয়েছি। যে বাংলা দেশে এই সব বীর বোহন সঙ্ঘ

হয়েছে আজ সেই বাংলার জনশ্রিয় বহিঃশ্রমীর কাছে (Voice from the opposition. শ্রী শ্রী।) স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের সৈনিকদের মুক্তির জন্য আমাকে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনতে হয়েছে। তার জন্য আমি নিজেই দুঃখিত এবং লজ্জিত হচ্ছি। জানিনি আমাদের জনশ্রিয় বহিঃশ্রমীর মতীরা লজ্জিত কিনা অথবা লজ্জা বা দুঃখের বালাই তাদের নেই। যাই হউক আজ আমরা প্রধান মন্ত্রী মাননীয় সোহরাওয়ার্দি সাহেব থেকে আশঙ্ক্য করে মাননীয় বাজম-সচিবের মুখে শীট স্বাধীনতার বুলি শুনি। বাংলা স্বাধীন হ'লে এ কথা তাঁরা যেখানে কবছেন কিন্তু তাঁরা কি জানেন না যে আজ তাঁরা যে স্বাধীনতার কথা বলছেন, তাঁরা স্বাধীন বাংলায় কথা বলছেন এ সুযোগ তাঁরা লাভ করেছেন কোথা থেকে? কারা এই সুযোগ তাঁদের এনে দিয়েছে? আগে এই বাংলাদেশে শুধু বাংলাদেশে কেন ভারতবর্ষে স্বাধীনতা চাই এই কথা বলে সাম্রাজ্যবাদী শাসক সম্প্রদায়ের কাছে অপরাধ বলে গণ্য হ'ত। বাংলা এবং ভারতবর্ষের স্বাধীনতাকামী যোদ্ধারা নিজেরা দুঃখকষ্ট বরণ করে আজ এই অধিকার লাভ করেছেন। তাই আজ সোহরাওয়ার্দি সাহেব, আমাদের বহাদুর আলী সাহেব স্বাধীন বাংলার কথা বড় গলায় বলছেন কিন্তু তাঁদের মন এবং মুখ এক নয় কারণ তাঁরা যখন স্বাধীন বাংলার কথা বলছেন তখনও বাংলা দেশকে স্বাধীন করবার জন্য সংগ্রাম করেছেন সেই সংগ্রামশীল সৈনিকদের তাঁরা ছেলে আরজ করে বেখেছেন। এই বকবতীয়ে গাণ্ডাওয়ালী আর কত দিন চলেবে? আজও বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন জেলে ৫৭ জন রাজনৈতিক বন্দী আছে, আলীপুর জেলে ১১ জন, মেদেনীপুর জেলে ২১ জন, বাজসাহী জেলে ১৮ জন এবং ঢাকা সেন্ট্রাল জেলে ৭ জন এই মোট ৫৭ জন রাজনৈতিক বন্দী আছে। এব ভিতর ছয় জন অন্যান্য দেশের বন্দী আছে আলীপুর জেলে আর ৫১ জন শুধু ১৯৪২ সালের আগস্ট বিপ্লবের বন্দী আছে। আজ মন্ত্রী স্বাধীনতার কথা বলছেন। স্বাধীনতার কথা তাঁরা বলুন কিন্তু আমরা বলি সে কথা বলবার আগে এই বীর যোদ্ধাদের ছেড়ে দিন। যখন অন্য প্রদেশের নজির ছিল এই বন্দী মুক্তি প্রাপ্ত উঠেছিল তখন বাজম-সচিব হেসে উঠত দিয়েছিলেন অন্যান্য প্রদেশে কংগ্রেসী মন্ত্রিসভারী তাঁদের দলের লোক বাংলা স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রাম করেছে তাঁদের ছেড়ে দিয়েছে। কিন্তু আমি জানিয়ে বাততে চাই যে স্বাধীনতাকারীর কোন দল নেই। যখন নীতিতে জোয়ার আসে তখন খাল বিল সব ভরে এক হয়ে যায়। সেই বকর স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামেও সমস্ত দল এক হয়ে যায়। তার ভিতর হিন্দুও থাকে না মুসলমানও থাকে না। বাংলা দেশের স্বাধীনতা চায় তাঁরা প্রত্যেক স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামে যোগ দেয়। স্বাধীনতা ১৯৪২ সালে সকলে স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামে যোগ দিয়েছিল। তার ভিতর হিন্দু মুসলমান ভেদভেদ ছিল না। এখনও জব্বার আলী, ইয়াকুব আলী প্রভৃতি জেলে আছে। স্মরণ্যঃ এটা কোন একটা দলের আলোচন নয়। কংগ্রেসের নেতৃত্বে আলোচন হয়েছে। কংগ্রেস বিপ্লবের আদান জানিয়েছে মাত্র। কিন্তু বিপ্লবকারীরা ভারতবর্ষের যে যেখানে ছিল প্রত্যেক এই আলোচনায় যোগ দিয়েছিল। স্মরণ্যঃ এটা কোন দলীয় আলোচন নয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiry, your time is up.

Mr. PRO/ASH CHANDRA LAHIRY: এক মিনিট, স্যার, আজ নীতির লোকেরা যদি স্বাধীনতা আলোচন করে জেলে যেতেন, তা' হ'লে আমরা তাদেরও মুক্তির কথা বলতাম, আজও অনেকের উপর থেকে নিষেধাজ্ঞা প্রত্যাহৃত হয় নাই। যারা ফেরওয়ারি আছে তাদের উপর থেকে Arrest warrant এখনও প্রত্যাহৃত করা হয় নাই। স্মরণ্যঃ আমি আশা করি যে যারা স্বাধীনতার কথা বলবেন তাঁরা যারা ফেরওয়ারী জীবন যাপন করছে তাদের Arrest warrant প্রত্যাহৃত করবেন। বাক্সারী সন্তান যোগেশ চান্ডি, বৈকেশ্বর নথ প্রভৃতি যারা বাংলায় আসার অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত তাদের বাংলায় আসার অনুমতি দিন। এই বলে আমার ছাটাই প্রস্তাব পরিষদ কক্ষের সম্মুখের জন্য দিচ্ছি।

Mr. KHACENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about communal disturbances at Sadpur, district Rangpur, in January, 1947.

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, লীগমন্ড বিশেষ করে গত নির্বাচনের সময় থেকে আরম্ভ করে বাংলার ছাটে, বাটে, বাটে, পথে যেভাবে হিন্দু বিঘেষ বিঘে ছড়াচ্ছেন এবং এই বিঘেষ শেষকুটী লীগ মন্ত্রী সত্তা এখন কি পাসন আপ্যারে এবং তাঁদের প্রত্যেক কার্যে মূল্যবান সাম্প্রদায়িক বনোবৃত্তিকে যে ভাবে উদ্ভাস দিচ্ছেন, শূন্য দিচ্ছেন, সহায়তা করছেন তার ফলে বাংলার যে পরিস্থিতির উদ্ভব হয়েছে তার একটি নিদর্শন হচ্ছে সৈয়দপুরের এই হাঙ্গামা। নীতির এই বনোভাব এমনকি উচ্চতর সরকারী কর্মচারীদের মধ্যেও সংক্রান্ত হয়েছে। আমি এই বনোভাব ঘটনার কথা এখানে উল্লেখ করতাম না যদি তার জের আজও সেখানে না

চলছে। সৈয়দপুরে সাম্প্রদায়িক অশান্তি শুরু হয়েছে অনেকদিন আগে থেকে বিশেষ করে গত নির্বাচনের সময় যখন সন্ত্রাস্ত মুসলমান জনতা উল্লেখ্য পাটরি রিমাছুদিন সাহেবের বাড়ী আক্রমণ করে এবং ভাষীভূত করে দেয় এবং কোন ক্রমে রিমাছুদিন সাহেব প্রাণ রক্ষা করেন। তখন হতে হিন্দু সন্ত্রাস্তদের মধ্যে আতঙ্কের স্রষ্টা হয় এবং তার পর হতে ছোট ষাঁট ঘটনা অনেক ঘটে যায়। সেখানকার মুসলমানরা হিন্দু পাড়ায় এক উদ্ভুক্ত স্থানে গুরু অবাই করে। সেখানকার রেলওয়ে ওয়ার্কসপের ম্যানেজার আবদুল হামিদ খান সাহেব গ্রামে গ্রামে গোপন বৈঠক করে গোলমাল বাড়িয়ে তোলেন। তিনি অল্পদিনের মধ্যেই অনেক পেশাদারী মুসলমান আমদানী করেন। এই পেশাদারী মুসলমানদের দ্বারা গোলমাল স্রষ্টা করা হয়। এই রকম অনেক ঘটনা এই কয় মাসের মধ্যে ঘটে যায় যার ফলে হিন্দুরা শঙ্কিত হয়ে উঠে কারণ তারা এখানে সংখ্যালঘু।

গত সরস্বতী পূজার সময় গোলমাল চরম অবস্থায় উপনীত হয়ে পড়ে। সরস্বতী প্রতিমা নিয়ে হিন্দুরা একটি procession বার করে। এই procession এর জন্য license নেওয়া হয়েছিল এবং তার পুরোভাগে ছিলেন সন্ত্রাস্ত পুলিশ বাহিনী নিয়ে S. D. O. স্বয়ং। এই শোভাযাত্রা যখন বড় বাজারের মসজিদের সন্মুখে উপস্থিত হয় সেই সময় অপর পার্শ্বের এক পাকিস্তান হোটেল থেকে একদল মুসলমান এগিয়ে গিয়ে ঐ শোভাযাত্রা আক্রমণ করে এবং প্রতিমাগুলি ভাঙতে থাকে (Shame, Shame,)। সাথে সাথে মসজিদের ভিতর থেকেও ইটকি বগু নিক্ষেপণ হতে থাকে যারফলে প্রতিমাগুলি টুকরা টুকরা হয়ে যায় ও procession বিঘাবিভক্ত হয়ে যায়। পুলিশ এসে জনতা ছত্রভঙ্গ করে দেয় এবং ভাঙ্গা প্রতিমাগুলি পথপার্শ্বে পড়ে থাকে। এতে হিন্দুরা উত্তেজিত হয়ে পাকিস্তান হোটেল আক্রমণ করে কিন্তু কংগ্রেস নেতা ও হিন্দু মহাসভার নেতারা গিয়ে পাকিস্তান হোটেলের মুসলমানদের প্রাণরক্ষা করে ও তাদের নিরাপদ স্থানে সরিয়ে দেয়। সেই সময় খালসীপাড়ার workshop থেকে একদল মুসলমান বের হয়ে বিহার রিফিউজিদের সঙ্গে যোগ দিয়ে হিন্দুদের যাকে যেখানে পেল কাটতে শুরু করে দিলে। চিংকার শুনে workshop এর হিন্দু hands রা ছুটে আসে এবং অতিক্রান্তভাবে মুসলমানদের দ্বাড়ে নিহত হয়। তাদের একটি কপের মধ্যে ফেলে দেওয়া হয়। রাত ১২ টার সময় সংবাদ পেয়ে রক্তপূরের জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সেখানে আসেন এবং খালসীপাড়ায় যান। তার আধ ঘণ্টা পেরেও মুসলমান গুণ্ডারা হিন্দুবাড়ী আক্রমণ করেছে দেখা যায়। কিছু পরে জলপাইগুড়ি ও রংপুর হতে সন্ত্রাস্ত পুলিশ বাহিনী এসে উপস্থিত হয়। পরদিন হতে চারিদিকে পুলিশ পাহারা বসে যায়। এদিকে সরস্বতী পূজার পরদিনই সৈয়দপুরের চারিদিকে হতে ১০ হতে ১০ লক্ষ সন্ত্রাস্ত মুসলমান জনতা চারিদিকে আক্রমণ করবার জন্য জড় হতে থাকে।

দিনাজপুরের অপরদিক হতে যে আক্রমণ হয় তার পুরোভাগে একজন বন্দুকধারী uniform পরিহিত মুসলমান নেতাকে দেখা গিয়েছিল।

পুলিশ সরস্বতী পূজা প্রসঙ্গন ছত্রভঙ্গ করেছিল কোন মুসলমানকে হত্যা করেনি। তা—সঙ্গেই সৈয়দপুরের বাইরে মকঃম্বেল মিথ্যা প্রচার করা হয় যে workshop এর ম্যানেজার আবদুল হামিদ খানকে ও অন্যান্য মুসলমান নেতাদের হিন্দুরা নিহত করেছে মুসলমান বসজিৎ ধ্বংস করেছে। এই মিথ্যা প্রচার শুনে জনতা উন্মত্ত হয়ে ছুটে এসেছে। পুলিশ শ্রমণে জনতাকে বুঝিয়ে তাদের ভুল ভাঙ্গিয়ে সরবার চেষ্টা করছিল কিন্তু সফলকাম হয় নাই। জনতা ক্রমশঃ অগ্নিস্রব হতে থাকে এই ঘটনায় পুলিশ উপায়ান্তর না দেখে আক্রমণকারী উন্মত্ত জনতার উপর গুলি ছুঁড়তে বাধ্য হয়। ফলে কয়েকজন মুসলমান হতাহত হয়। পুলিশ ফাঁকা গুলি ছুঁড়লেও কোন কোর জনতাকে সরাতে সক্ষম হয়।

আমি ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট Ishaque সাহেব সম্পর্কে দুই চারিটি কথা বলতে চাই। তিনি সেখানে যা করেছেন তাতে তাঁর লীগ মনোবৃত্তি পরিষ্কার হয়ে কুটে উঠেছে। পূর্বেই বলেছি বিগত নির্বাচনে উল্লেখ্য পাটরি প্রাণী মৌলভি রিমাছুদিন সাহেবের বড়বাড়ী সন্ত্রাস্ত মুসলমান জনতা পুড়িয়ে দিয়েছিল। মৌলানা সাহেব হাতে স্থানীয় লীগ নেতাদের বিরুদ্ধে আনীত arson case শুনে নেন তার জন্য ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট স্বয়ং তাঁকে অনুসোধ করেন।

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das Gupta, your time is up.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: আর এক মিনিট সময় দিন, স্যার;

Mr. SPEAKER: The party is not the dispenser of the time. They suggested one time-table to me yesterday, they have suggested another time-table to me today. They ought to be consistent.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: আর যাত্রা এক মিনিট হলে আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করতে পারি, স্যার।

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you speak for one minute.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: তাৰ পৰ ব্যক্তিটো সাহেবেৰ অনুৰোধ শ্রদ্ধা না কৰি বিমুক্তহিন্দু সাহেবেৰ নিজৰ মাহাত্ম্য বোঝানে তিনি লক্ষবিধৰে আশ্রয় নিয়েছিলে সেই মাহাত্ম্য—Bihar refugee দেব জন্য requisition কৰে নেওমা হয়।

Arson case এৰ অন্যতৰ প্ৰধান আসামী সৈয়দপুৰ H. E. School এৰ এক বৌদ্ধি School কৰ্তৃপক্ষক নিকট কোন leave application না দিয়ে পলাতক থাকেন। কাজে যোগ না দেৱাৰ জন্য তাকে discharge কৰা হলে ব্যক্তিটো Mr. Ishaque, যানেনজি কৰিবিৰ Presidentক পুনৰায় তাকে বহাল কৰাৰ জন্য অনুৰোধ কৰেন। অনুৰোধ ৰক্ষিত না হওঁয়াকৈ বুলেৰ annual Government grant বন্ধ কৰে নেওমা হয়েছে। সৰহুতী পূজাৰ Procession যাৰ আৰম্ভণ কৰেছিল তাৰেৰে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰা হয় নাই। যাৰ বহুঃকালে বিখ্যা প্ৰচাৰ যাৰ জনতাকে উত্তেজিত কৰেছিল তাৰেৰে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰা হয় নাই। শাখী ওগাংলৈও গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰা হয় নাই। পক্ষান্তৰে তিনজন হিন্দু নেতাকে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰে বিনা বিচাৰে আটক ৰাখা হয়। হিন্দু নেতাদেৰে বহুঃ সেৱাদাৰ হিন্দু মহাসভাৰ সভাপতি এবং সম্পাদক আছেন যাৰ নিজেদেৰে জীবন বিপন্ন কৰেও সেই ছোটেলৈৰে মুদলাবান্দেৰে প্ৰাণ ৰক্ষা কৰতে গিয়েছিলে। ৰালাসীপাড়ায় যে হত্যা ও লুণ্ঠন হয়েছৈ ব্যক্তিটো সাহেবে তাৰ জন্য কোন search বা সম্পত্তি উদ্ধাৰেৰে কোন চেষ্টা করেন নাই। ব্যক্তিটো সাহেবে সৈয়দপুৰ এলে উঠেন খাম মাহাত্ম্য সাহেবেৰেৰে বাঢ়ীতে, ডাক ৰাখিলে নয়।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I know that a particular time is allotted to a party and as to the time allotted to each member of a party to speak that is decided by the party. We know that the party is the dispenser of time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly not. A party is not the dispenser of time. It is for me to see how far I can accommodate the parties.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The Speaker allows some time to a party and as to the time allowed to any member of the party that is varied in the case of different speakers.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is for the convenience of the members.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: That was the convention. It is not a new thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Time is allowed in such a way by the Whip of the party that there is hardly any time for me to extend the time-limit of a member even by one minute or half a minute.

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the insecure condition of the minority community in the town of Chittagong and its neighbourhood.

26th January was declared a hartal in Chittagong because there were arrests of Muslim people in Lahore. Muslim volunteers went along and requested the girls who were on their way to the Nandankanan School to join the procession. There was an agreement between the Secretary and the volunteers that there should be no classes, but the Professor said that being the guardian of the students he could not allow them to join the procession. The same thing happened in the Khastgir Girls' School, and so far as I could find out I do not think there was any disturbance. There was some little excitement which was quite usual, but I do not think that there was much discourtesy shown to the girls. I am mentioning this to show that I do not grumble without reasons. But in the matter of the boys of Municipal Schools it is a very different matter. The volunteers went there, belaboured the boys as well as the masters. I saw some of the masters and I saw some of the boys. There was a threat also of stabbing.

From there these volunteers went to the Court to what is called the English Room, the Record Room. They tore the records of the files and destroyed them and there again they belaboured the Hindu clerks. A Muslim Subordinate Judge was also roughly handled. No complaint seems to have been made by those in authority against these actions. It seems this sort of thing is to be quite an ordinary thing in Chittagong.

Then I have to mention the matter of Muslim League leaflets which are being distributed in Chittagong. These leaflets say that Hindus are out to destroy the Muslims and that the Hindus are out to do all mischief that they can to the Muslim people. Other leaflets are very insulting to Mahatma Gandhi which naturally the Hindus object to most strongly. Other leaflets which are being circulated are certainly not to create good feelings between the Hindus and Muslims. On the 17th and 18th December Mr. Suhrawardy visited Chittagong. The leaflets were going about on that day. It is quite possible that Mr. Suhrawardy did not see them. It is also possible that they were issued in his honour. I would ask him to direct the people in charge of Chittagong to stop the circulation of these mischievous leaflets. The village people, I still say, Sir, do not want to quarrel with each other, but these leaflets may create a great deal of trouble. If the Hon'ble Minister tells me that they want Pakistan and that they are going to get it, then he must show how to get it and decide how to act. If the Hon'ble Minister says that they want the very best feelings between Hindus and Muslims, I must say, Sir, that it is a very strange way to have it.

Now, Sir, I have to take you back to 1942 February when 35,000 people of Patenga and South Halisabar were asked to move from their lands with all that they had—their valuables, their clothes, their families including cows, ploughs, etc., and other implements within 72 hours. 72 hours is not a long time for families to remove themselves. But these poor people did not even get 72 hours. They got 29 hours, one day and five hours to get away. It was not possible for them to get away within such a short time. Even Government recognised this and they promised to look after whatever these people had to leave behind and they also promised that the people would return to Chittagong in a short time. We know, Sir, that it was not possible for them to return before four years. In January 1946 some people came back. They commenced to build their small huts with the result that in less than a month they were ousted again from there. They had nowhere to go. They stayed on the bank of the river and in Chittagong in January it was bitterly cold and we can fully understand the miseries of those poor people. I want to ask Government why they had no committee to enquire into the compensations to be paid to these people for the loss of their goods, for the loss of their lands, for the destruction of their houses, for the loss of their ploughs and other implements. Since then some people have gone back to Patenga. But what is the condition of the lands which they have got back? It is covered by jungles and they have no implements and it is impossible for them to carry on proper cultivation. I would ask Government what they are going to do about the land which was sold for arrears of revenue or rent and of lands which they promised that they would take care of. Anti-malaria oil was spread all over the lands, but it does not seem to be good for growing of paddy, or for drinking water. The military could make arrangement for drinking water, but these people cannot. I want Government to make arrangement for good drinking water for these people, for medical aid, education for their children. I want to know what is going to happen to people who have got back their houses but no land, and people who have got their land but no houses. What compensation is Government going to give to these people to buy clothes, medicine and to build houses for them? (Applause.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Allotment of time to the Members for discussion of cut motions.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I mention one matter? Unfortunately I was away from this House attending a conference called by the Chief Minister. I understand from my Chief Whip that there has been some difficulty in the allotment of time to our members. As far as I remember, Sir, the convention of this House is that after a certain time is allotted to the members of the Opposition or to any party, the party concerned decides which speaker will speak and what time will be allotted to each of the speakers. I believe, Sir, you yourself had agreed to this arrangement. If this is so then I do not understand why the time allotted to some of our speakers was cut down, causing great inconvenience to the members. I would like to know from yourself, Sir, if the position remains the same and that if within the time allotted to a party the party will select its speakers and decide what time would be given to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: That will be very helpful to me; but today what happened is this. Yesterday a time-table was submitted to me allotting certain time; but today another time-table has been submitted showing certain changes in the individual allotment of time, without any explanatory note as to whether the total time has been kept intact; it is not clear from the previous list nor the Deputy Whip of your Party who handed over a fresh list today, explained to me how the changes occurred about time in the two lists before me. The time noted against individual speakers varied in the two lists and in the absence of an explanation the lists looked like different, the Chief Whip came and explained to me that there was no change in the total timing, though it was not explained by a note in the list nor verbally to me. In none of the lists total time was shown. As a matter of fact time was not cut down from any individual member, because I stuck to the list submitted to me yesterday, and afterwards when members wanted time I gave them time.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that the entire time was not shown in the time-table submitted by the Whip? I do not know if we have encroached upon other's time, I hope in future I understand we have not encroached on other Parties' time. We have kept ourselves within the time allotted to us. As regards the changes, it sometimes does happen that a speaker may not finish his speech within the time allotted to him—

Mr. SPEAKER: But that has got to be explained to me as to how the changes happened, otherwise it is very difficult to understand the changes.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I hope the time allotted to us will be left at our disposal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly that will never be cut down.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about (i) General policy, (ii) failure of the Government to give minority community due protection in the districts of Dacca, Noakhali, Tippera and Rangpur, (iii) criminal negligence in the matter of relief and rehabilitation of the sufferers of the minority community in the communally disturbed areas, (iv) imposition of discriminatory collective fine (v) discriminatory punitive measures, (vi) police oppression, (vii) communal bias of the administrative officers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, ভারতের স্বাধীনতা অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠার পরিকল্পনার সময় দেশের শান্তি-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষা এবং সংবাদপত্রের স্বাধীনতা ও অধিকার রক্ষার শরির পূর্ণাঙ্গ পদক্ষেপে সচিবের পাদন করবেন, এই আশা জামি সাধনা কি না। বেহেতু শান্তি রক্ষা হচ্ছেনা, কারণ লম্বা করেকটা কথা নিবেদন করব। তীব্র সাম্প্রদায়িক হিংসার

পরিবেষণ দ্বারা মুসলমান জনসাধারণকে হিন্দুবিষেধী করে বি, এ, রেল গাড়ীতে, চাকা জিলায়, বেঘনা, বলেশুরী, লক্ষা, মুক্তিগলা প্রভৃতি নগর জনপথে এবং প্রসিদ্ধ ব্যবসা-কেন্দ্র বাবুর হাটের যাতায়াতের সন্তায় লুণ্ঠনকারী, অত্যাচারী ও গ্রামদের নগনে শৈথিল্য প্রকাশ করে গভর্ণমেন্ট তাদের প্রতি যে কাঙ্ক্ষা দেখিয়েছেন, তাহার স্বাভাবিক পরিণতি চাকার গ্রামাঞ্চলে, নোয়াখালি, ত্রিপুরা জিলায় ও গুয়াহাটীর প্রতিষ্ঠা এবং সংখ্যালঘিষ্ঠ হিন্দুদের উপর অবর্ণনীয় অত্যাচার।

নোয়াখালি, ত্রিপুরা ও চাকার গ্রামাঞ্চলে যেখানে অত্যাচার হয়েছে সবচেয়ে বেশী এবং উৎপীড়িত কেবলমাত্র হিন্দু সেই সব স্থানে পাটকারী ভরিয়ানা ধার্য না করে এবং চাকার সহরে জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের অনুমত নীতি, যাহাতে লাজ প্রাপ্ত হইতছিল তাহার আনুল পরিবর্তন করে একই প্রকারের অপরাধের জন্য মুসলমান অপেক্ষা হিন্দুর উপর চারগুণ অধিক ভরিয়ানা ধার্য করে সংখ্যালঘিষ্ঠদের প্রতি কেবলমাত্র অবিচারই করা হয়নি। এক শ্রেণীর অত্যাচারী ও গুণ্ডালকে প্রশ্রয় দেওয়া হয়েছে। চাকার সহরে কারফিউ প্রবর্তনও সেই বৈষম্যমূলক ব্যবস্থা হিন্দু পক্ষীতে ৭২ ঘণ্টা কারফিউতে দরজা ভাঙ্গা, জানালা খোলায় টিমার গ্যাস ফেঁড়া, ব্রীলোকের উপর হাবপিট প্রভৃতি অত্যাচারের সহিত শাসা, পানীয় এমন কি রোগীর পখা, শিশুর দুধ পর্যন্ত বন্ধ করে শিশুর মৃত্যু ঘটান হয়েছে। এই প্রত্যক্ষ নিষ্ঠুরতার অত্যাচারের অব্যয় শেষ হয়নি, গুণ্ডার অত্যাচারে যাহাবা সর্গু হাশ্ব হয়েছেন তাহাঙ্গিকে সাহায্যলাভের কার্পণ্য এবং পুনর্বসতি ব্যবস্থায় নির্ভর ঔলসীনা গভর্ণমেন্টের কলুষিত বনোভাবকে ভ্রমশ্রষ্ট করে তুলেছে। গভর্ণমেন্টের এই নিষ্কণীয় নীতিতে উৎসাহিত হয়েই এক শ্রেণীর কর্মচারী বিবেকবুদ্ধি সম্পর্কপূর্ণ নিষেধন দিয়েছেন।

গভর্ণমেন্টের কর্মচারিগণ বিশেষতঃ দায়িত্বপূর্ণ পদে যাহাবা অধিষ্ঠিত তাহাবা যদি পক্ষপাতশূন্য হয়ে সত্যতার সহিত কর্তব্য পালন না করেন তবে শাস্তি বা শৃঙ্খলা বন্ধাব কোন সম্ভাবনাই থাকে না। কিন্তু অনেকে তাঁদের কর্তব্য পালন করেননি। কয়েকটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিচ্ছি—

একজন উচ্চপদস্থ কর্মচারী চাকার কার্যভার গ্রহণ করার পূর্বে সাম্প্রদায়িক অশান্তি দ্বিকপ ব্যাপকতা জ্ঞাত করে, এবং হত্যাপরাধীদের অনুসন্ধানে তিনি কি প্রকার শৈথিল্য দেখান, সেই দীর্ঘ আলোচনার সময় হবে না। তবে ১৬ই অক্টোবর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে একখানি চাকারগামী ট্রেনে আক্রমণ করতে একজন শত্রু ও গুণ্ডা সমবেত হয়েছে এই সংবাদ তাঁহাকে দেওয়া হলে, ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বনের প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েও তিনি যে নিষ্ক্রিয়তা অবলম্বন করেছিলেন, এবং ঐ আক্রান্ত গাড়ীতে ১ জন হত ও কয়েকজন আহত হওয়ায় সংবাদ প্রযুক্ত গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট প্রেরিত বৈদিক অপরাধজনক ঘটনার তালিকা উল্লেখ না করে, গোপন করার যে অপচেষ্টা করেছিলেন, এবং যাহা জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের তদন্তে প্রকাশ পেয়ে যায় তাহা অপরাধজনক ক্রটি নয় কি? একথা করেছেন মিঃ চাকির হোসেন, চাকার জিলায় পুলিশ সুপারিন্টেন্ডেন্ট।

আর একজন বিভিন্ন দিনে বিভিন্ন স্থানে এবং ২০শে সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে চাকার বেচাবার ডেউডীতে মারাত্মক অস্ত্রসত্ত্বে মুসলিম লীগের লীগকারী ও গুণ্ডালকে যেভাবে পুলিশ হেফাজত হতে মুক্তি দেন, ২৮শে অক্টোবর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে যে ও গুণ্ডা দুটি হিন্দু নারীকে হত্যা বা অপহরণ করে শাশ্বিনগর আক্রমণ করে, তাদের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাতও না করে, আক্রান্তদের প্রেরণা করেন, এবং পণ্ডিত ভদ্রবরদা নেহেরু Interim গভর্ণমেন্ট গঠন করার হিন্দুয়া হিন্দু রাজ্য আশা করতে পারে না, উক্তি করে বিপুল হিন্দুদের পুলিশ সাহায্য শ্রুতিনা প্রত্যাখ্যান করেন। তাহা এই প্রকারের বহু ভয়না আচরণ ও কর্তব্যের ক্রমিক আলোচনার পূর্বত না হলেও ১৫ই সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে পুলিশ অফিসের বারানাস টাউন্ডে “The Muslims are doomed, if they do not organise and retaliate on the Hindus” বলে যেভাবে এক সম্প্রদায়কে অপর সম্প্রদায়ের বিরুদ্ধে উত্তেজিত করেছিলেন তাহা উল্লেখ করতে হয়, ইনি মিঃ ইফ্রিম, চাকার Additional Superintendent of Police. ২৪-পরগণার টালপুরনিবাসী বিপিন বিহারী ঘোষকে এক সার্জেন্ট আততায়ীর হাত হতে রক্ষা করে কোতরাধী খানায় সর্বপণ করার পরদিন ৩০শে সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে অত্যাচারীদের অনুসন্ধান, লুণ্ঠিত জগা ও অর্থ উদ্ধারের আশুপদ দিয়ে সেই বিপদের স্থানে নিয়ে তাহাকে হত্যা করতে দিয়ে মৃত দেহটী মর্গে পাঠিয়ে বিনি কর্তব্য সমাধা করেছিলেন তিনি Superintendent of Police মিঃ তোরাবালী।

নিজের উদ্বোধনানে মাল সরিয়ে হিন্দুদের বিরুদ্ধে মিথ্যা এজাহার বিনি দেওয়াইয়েছিলেন, যাহা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের তদন্তে প্রকাশ পেয়ে যার তিনি মালবাপের D. I. B. ইন্সপেক্টর। G. D. entry না করে থানা হ'তে মুসলমান ও গুণ্ডাদের বৃদ্ধি দিয়ে অভিযোগকারী হিন্দুদের বিরুদ্ধে মিথ্যা মালদা সাধারণ দীর্ঘ তালিকা এই অল্প সববে উল্লেখ করা যাবে না। এই বৎসর জানুয়ারী মিছিলে উৎপাত হই এবং ৭ই মার্চ ১৯৪৭ তারিখে চাকার নগর রাজ্য হিন্দু পঞ্চাচারীদের উপর সার্বেশেন্টের অত্যাচারের সংবাদ আপনাবা জানেন।

শ্রীযুক্ত গিরিশ চন্দ্র দাসের নামে একজন প্রবীণ উকিল, প্রত্যহ ব্যাড্জিট্টের সহিত বাহার লাক্ষ্য হ'ত তাহাকে কেবল বোধবা করে বান ক্রোকের অপচেষ্টা, অপহৃত হিন্দু নবীদিগকে উদ্ধার করতে ওলাসীনা, গুণাবের প্রতি সহানুভূতিশীল হয়ে প্রোত্তাপ করতে শৈথিল্য করার নামে অপকর্ষা বহু আছে। তেজপাণ্ডু থানার বহু ক্রমে হত্যা, লুণ্ঠন প্রভৃতি দ্বারা লম্বনে ঔলসীনা এবং ঐ সকল অপরাধে অভিযুক্ত ব্যক্তিদের সহিত যোগাযোগ ঐ থানা অফিসারের বৈশিষ্ট্য। ১৯৪১ সনে রায়পুরা লাক্ষ্য, রায়পুরা থানায় যিনি কৃত্রিম অর্জন করেছিলেন তিনি কেবলীপাণ্ডু থানার ভাব গ্রহণ করলে তথায় অনুক্রম ঘটনার কাণ্ড হ্রাস্ট। ৮ই জানুয়ারী ১৯৪৭ তারিখে কৃষ্যাত বাহু নবীতে পাত্রিয়ারায় নৌকা লুণ্ঠনকারীদের প্রোত্তাপ না করে স্থানীয় লোকের অনুরোধ উপেক্ষা করে লুণ্ঠনগতের সেকেন্ড অফিসার ঐ স্থান ত্যাগ করার পর দিন প্রাতে পুনরায় নৌকা লুণ্ঠন বৈশিষ্ট্য পূর্ণ।

স্যার, এই অনাচার কেবলমাত্র পুলিশের মধ্যেই সীমাবদ্ধ নয়, সর্বত্র লাক্ষ্যকারী লম্বন গুণাবের সহজে নিজেরতা, অভিযুক্ত পুলিশকে অনাচারভাবে মজলান এবং মালসহ হ'ত লুণ্ঠনকারীও লম্বন করা হয়েছে এমন চতাত্যাক্ষিকের জামিনে মজি দেওয়ার মত বহু অপকর্ষা করেছেন লক্ষিণ লম্বন মহকুমা হাকিম মি: মীর হোসেন।

১৯৪৪ থানা আমানো একটা লাঠি রাখার অপরাধে হিন্দুকে এক মাস কারাগারে দণ্ডিত করে কিন্তু dagger সহ হ'ত মুসলমানকে warning দিয়ে মজি দিয়েছেন অপর ব্যাড্জিট্ট মি: আফতাবদিন। ১৯৫১ থানায় হ'ত শ্রীযুক্ত স্বদেশ চন্দ্র বোমকে ১৫ই অক্টোবর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে এবং মোক্তার শ্রীযুক্ত ভুবন সাহাকে ৫ই নভেম্বর ১৯৪৬ তারিখে মজি দিতে ৪৩ হাজার টাকা জামিন দাবী করতে মুন্সীপত্রের মহকুমা হাকিম মি: আমানুল্লাহ লম্বন বোধ করেননি।

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is mentioning the names of the officers. Is he entitled to mention the names of the officers? It is the convention of the House not to do so.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: সাম্প্রদায়িক কলহ বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে একপাশে বহুতাব জনা কনিশনার মি: হলাওএর বিরুদ্ধে কোন ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হয়নি, এবং পরিচয় লম্বন হত্যাকারী Captain Blake Cockfield কে কোন শাস্তি দেওয়া হয়নি জানি না। গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি এসব অনাচার দূর না করে, এবং স্বপক্ষীয় লম্বনাগণকে সাম্প্রদায়িক বিধি চড়াবার প্রতিযোগিতায় উৎসাহিত করে, জোরে জোরে লম্বনামিষ্টদের প্রতি অধিচার, অনাচার, অত্যাচার চালাতে থাকেন, তবে প্রধান মন্ত্রী স্বরাষ্ট্র সাহেবের নাক্ষিক্য উজ্জিত করণও বা লম্বন উজ্জি, করণও বা শাস্তি ও মিলনের বাধী সবই হবে বৃথা। সাম্প্রদায়িকতার এই নগ্ন কুংসিকতা, কথান অবলম্বন নিকা যাবে না। উঁচাব ও উঁচাব দলীয় লোকদের স্ববুদ্ধি উদয় হ'লে দেশের মহলেন জনা সাম্প্রদায়িক মনোভাব পরিচ্যাপ করে, বিবক্ষ লম্বনের সহিত লম্বন আলোচনার দ্বারা সর্ব লম্বন কল্পপথ দিব করুন। নতুবা ভবিষ্যত কাহাবও গুড হবে বলে মনে হয় না।

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot but take my stand by reason of the gross lies that have been told in this House by a member like Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee.

Sir, I must tell you that Dacca had been a hot-bed of communal riots for some time past now, but we have always complained that we are the aggrieved party and injustice has been done to us. The Muslims have been killed in greater numbers by police firing than the Hindus. More Muslims are still detained in the *hanat* than the Hindus.

Now, Sir, I shall come one by one to the points that have been raised by my friends on the other side. It has been said that on 26th September, 1946, a train dacoity took place. The figures that were available on that day were 5 killed and 14 Muslims injured—of the killed 3 were Muslims and 2 Hindus. My friend wants us to believe that it was all done by Muslims. Not only that. Complaints have been made against Mr. Idris, Mr. Zakir Hossain, Mr. Torab Ali, Mr. Attab Ali, Lawyer Magistrate and Mr. Mir Hossain, Subdivisional Officer. Not less than 39 cases were started against these officers. I live in Dacca town and I am a practising lawyer there and I know much more than anybody else in this House of the occurrences at Dacca. ("Question" from the Opposition benches.) I tell you that 39 cases were instituted against these officers. An enquiry was

held and by judicial enquiry it was found that the officers were not guilty: Whatever they did, they did in their right of private defence and for the prevention of offences.

Now, Sir, my friend has referred to the police activities in Tejgaon and Keraniganj which is my constituency. Does he know how many Muslims are still detained in Keraniganj and Tejgaon in the *hajat* and how many Hindus are there? Does he know how many Muslim houses have been burnt and how many Muslims have been killed in Keraniganj by the members of the community of the other side? I shall give you the figures. Unfortunately I did not know that I would have to speak today, otherwise I would have given all the figures and I would have shown what gross lie has been told on the floor of the House. So, I request my friends on the opposite side that, before giving vent to such ideas, fantastic as they are and consisting of lies, they should twice think over the matter. (MR. CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Certainly not. I challenge you.) (Uproar.)

Sir, with these words, I raise my voice of protest against this wrongful assertion by members on the opposite and I take my seat.

MR. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the salary and conditions of employment of employees in the Assembly Department.

Sir, the subject-matter of my motion was fairly adequately discussed the other day when two questions were asked and answered in this House bearing substantially on the same subject. I would, therefore, today only restate the main points involved.

My first point was raised the other day on a point of privilege by my honourable friend the member for 24-Parganas (South East). The Assembly Department has been brought under the control of the Government in its Home (Constitution and Elections) Department unconstitutionally and surreptitiously. This was done by a Government circular issued, as far as I understand, on the 1st April, 1937, which framed rules for the control of the Assembly Department at a time when the Speaker was not elected and, therefore, without any consultation with the Speaker or with the Assembly although under the constitution Government have no right to frame rules for controlling the Assembly Department. This should be evident from the fact that this House is a body which is sovereign within the limitation imposed upon it by the 1935 Act. It is the authority which legislates, votes supplies and controls the Executive. The Speaker, I submit, Sir, is a servant not of the Government but of this Assembly and is subject to no outside control. The office of the Assembly is not a Government department, nor its employees Government servants. I suggest, therefore, that there is no reason why the Assembly should be brought under the control of the Government. To suggest to the contrary, to say for example that the Speaker and his officers should be subject to the control of the Government would mean in a most vital sphere of public administration the introduction of control by the executive over the legislature, which will be a very dangerous proposition. I further submit that the power that is vested in the Governor under section 59(3) of the Act relates only to the Provincial Executive and not to the Provincial Legislature. Again section 241 of the Government of India Act also does not apply to the employees of the Assembly Department, nor to the Speaker. Time will not permit me to elucidate this point further, but I will only say this that I would strongly urge upon you to thrash out finally and fully this issue with the Government without any delay so as to restore the prestige and independence of this House as also of its officers.

My second point, Sir, relates to the emoluments including the question of dearness allowance to be paid to the employees of the Assembly Department. This question was fully discussed the other day in this House and I do not wish to say anything more than this that pending the disposal of this matter in the way indicated by you the other day after consultation with Government, you will see to it that the employees of this department get what they are entitled to get under rule 17 of the Assembly Department Rules. I would also submit that you would bear in mind the question of offering them suitable compensation for the loss they may have sustained in the intermediate period.

My third and last point is the question of filling up the present post of the Assembly Librarian. I understand that an advertisement was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* on, I believe, the 16th January last inviting applications only from male candidates. I could hardly imagine, Sir, that of all persons the Hon'ble the Chief Minister could be so ungallant as to treat the case of a lady with such scant consideration. (Cries of "Shame, Shame" from Congress benches). I say, Sir, for the information of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that I could not imagine that of all persons the Hon'ble the Chief Minister should be so ungallant as to treat the case of a lady, namely, the present Assembly Librarian with such scant consideration. The present librarian possesses all the requisite qualifications and has also been discharging her duties as a Librarian. What I would request the Chief Minister to do is this: He should remedy the injustice that is being done to her with a view to enable the Public Service Commission to entertain and consider her application also along with other applications in the matter of filling up the post of Librarian.

That is all that I have to say.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to remove the present District Magistrate, Mr. Bastin, from Mymensingh in deference to popular demand.

This demand for the removal of Mr. Bastin is the demand of an oppressed humanity in Bengal and it finds a ready echo in the hearts of all Bengalis, because Mr. Bastin is not only an individual; he represents that malevolent and blood-thirsty type of officials who today in Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Khulna, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, etc., are burning and destroying *kisan* homes, are killing *kisan* men, women and children by the dozens and looting their properties. Mr. Bastin is, if I may use strong language, a finished rogue from Oxford.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order, Sir. Is it parliamentary to use the term "rogue" about an officer?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not present here to defend himself. Mr. Basu, you cannot use strong language against an officer who is not present here and cannot defend himself.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: All right, Sir. The Chief Minister is here, and he always gallantly defends his police officers and District Officers. That is why I used that strong language.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a personal attack. You should consider that the person against whom you make the attack is not present here and he cannot defend himself.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: This officer, before he started his head hunting in Susang, because a tribal expert here, and in his young Oxford days he learnt anthropology I believe. Before he started head hunting expedition this officer through a miasma of lies and deceit tried to create the impression that *kisans* and *Hajangs*, peasant *Hajangs* were in rebellion. I have got this from two British officers who had at the point of Bren guns directed me

to a police-station. When I asked them why they were there, they told me they were there because they were told of a *Hajang* rebellion. When I asked them whether they had seen any signs of this rebellion of the *kisans*, they plainly told me "not yet". They were there for about 21 days by then. This Magistrate installed the Eastern Frontier Rifles in that area—the Eastern Frontier Rifles which has always perpetrated savage crimes against all peoples' movements in Bengal. This lead has been followed everywhere in other districts of Bengal where similar atrocities are taking place against the people. I have just been told by Mr. Rup Narain Roy who has just returned from Dinajpur tour a few days back, that the police arrested him, bound him with ropes and beat him up. Mr. Rup Narain Roy is an M.L.A. Again I repeat all this has happened in spite of the fact as I have stated once that there was no violence on the part of the *kisans*, not a single thing has been looted by them not a single *jotedar* has been killed. Again I repeat none of their mothers, wives and sisters has been dishonoured by the *kisans*, and yet in the name of lawlessness and disorder we find Mr. Suhrawardy's officers creating havoc in the countryside. All this because of the simple demand of the *tebhaga* movement and that the *tanka* system must go. At best it is a matter for the civil courts. But I have yet received no answer either from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister or from any other Minister for that matter as to what they intend to do with the Bargadars Bill,—because they have not the courage to tell me that they will not proceed with it or they will proceed with it, because they know the answer they will get from their own Muslim *kisans*, from their own men. Yet Mr. Suhrawardy the Chief Minister, has not answered me about police lawlessness. I have given him facts and figures about their lawlessness. He has not answered me under what law, under what provisions of his Ordinance these crimes are being committed against *kisan* humanity by the Magistrates whose hands are reaping it the blood of *kisans*. In other civilised countries of the world they would have been tried and hanged, but here I find that they are feted by the Governor, the co-porter Governor of this country, and I find Mr. Suhrawady supporting them because otherwise it demoralised his officers. So the officers' head hunting expedition must continue. I appeal to him that his head hunting must stop and one for all these officers must be taught that they cannot carry on this in this fair land of Bengal.

Mr. C. P. C. WADE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the European Party has on many occasions urged Government to give full effect to the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee. I will be making further references to some of these recommendations, but would first of all suggest the desirability of Government placing the full picture of their final development plan before this House, so that we can be in a better position to judge the value and importance of this programme. A study of the Red and Blue Books fail to give any complete and final picture of this important matter. We would also suggest that advisory bodies might be established in the districts to assist the execution of the development programme. This was one of the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee.

Now, Sir, I wish to deal briefly with three points arising out of this demand. First of all, the future of the Government services in Bengal. I hope that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will amplify his answer to a question on this subject last Tuesday and explain Government's plans with regard to the future recruiting of the civil and police services. The Hon'ble Chief Minister confirmed that Bengal intends to recruit its own officers and will not take part in any all-India service, and gave reasons for this decision. We feel that this is a regrettable decision because an all-India service is likely to offer greater opportunities and greater security of service and therefore to attract the best men. It is most important, therefore, that the Bengal Government should offer the most attractive terms possible for its own services. It is only by doing this that the best men available will be obtained.

In view of the decision not to take part in the all-India services it is all the more important to ensure that Bengal's civil servants must be able to do their work without fear or favour, and without political influences. Government servants are being increasingly subjected to political pressure at the present time in the exercise of their duties. If they do not succumb to that pressure, there is every probability that their prospects will be adversely affected and the next step may well be their transfer to some less favourable post.

The Rowlands Committee considered this matter and made some important recommendations in this connection which have so far been ignored by Government. They recommend that Ministers should have no hand in the appointment or posting of any officer below the status of Secretary or Head of a Department, or Deputy Secretary and Deputy Head. Unfortunately, much valuable time of Ministers is being occupied with such subordinate appointments, time which would be far better used in dealing with questions of policy and problems of their Department. We feel that first class men will not be recruited if they are not protected against political pressure. Could the Chief Minister state his Government's intentions with regard to this matter?

Two other important recommendations of the Rowlands Committee, which in our opinion should be adopted without any hesitation, are first the recommendation that the Public Service Commission should not ordinarily be asked to suggest the names of more candidates than there are vacancies, and secondly that the Commission's annual report should be published in toto. In reply to questions from these Benches, we have been told in the past that the first of these proposals is under consideration, and that the second need not be accepted for the present.

Surely the first recommendation is an essential one if the Commission's recommendations are to become effective and there can be no justification for the Commission being asked to suggest the names of more candidates than there are vacancies.

There can also be no justification for not publishing the Public Service Commission's annual report in full, and the refusal to do so immediately raises suspicion in the mind of the ordinary man that Government have something to conceal.

I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Chief Minister would deal also with these two recommendations in his reply.

A further point is the question of partitioning certain districts. The District Magistrate, who has had added to his already heavy responsibilities the responsibility for execution of the Development programme, must obviously have a manageable unit of administration, and some of the present districts are much too large. I refer in particular to the Districts of Mymensingh, Midnapore, Bakarganj and Dacca. As long ago as 1913 these districts were considered unmanageably large by the Administrative Enquiry Committee of that year and since then their population and importance have greatly increased. How can efficient administration be expected in such large districts? Do Government intend to give effect to this recommendation, and if so, when?

Thirdly and briefly, I would emphasize the necessity for expanding the activities of the Local Self-Government Department as regards supervision over and assistance to local bodies. We feel that the Department of Local Self-Government should be separated from that of Public Health. The existing Department is not able to give adequate attention to Local Self-Government as its energies and attentions are absorbed by questions of Public Health. Both subjects are of vital importance and should receive equal attention.

The general standard of Local Self-Government is low and is not keeping pace with the expansion of Local Self-Government in other parts of the world. I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Chief Minister could tell us what action is proposed to raise this standard.

Mr. FAKIR ABDUL MANNAN: Sir, If we cast a glance at the Budget we find that the cost of this Department is going up by leaps and bounds. In the year 1943-44 the expenses under this head "General Administration" was Rs. 1,67,66,000 and it has in the present year increased to Rs. 2,98,74,000. We find that within a short period of 4 years the expenses of this Department has become double, but has the efficiency of the administration improved proportionately? I do not here propose to relate to the inefficiency in the district offices. Sir, if you look to the Secretariat there also you will find that the expenditure has become double. In 1943 the expenditure there was Rs. 24,65,000 and now it stands at Rs. 50,15,000. If you look to the expenditure side under different heads you will find that the already top-heavy administration has become more top-heavy now. There has been considerable increase in the pay of superior grade officers whereas the lot of the lower grade servants remains the same. The fate of the menials is hanging in the balance. They have not got sufficient money to procure the bare necessities of their life. They are unable to keep their body and soul together. There is inordinate delay in disposing of files and urgent matters. From my experience I can say that files remain undisposed of with dealing clerks not only for months together but even for years. I know of files which have not been disposed of in the course of 3 years and when explanation is asked for, some sort of explanation is always given. Apart from this there is always complaint of corruption here and there. Some sort of machinery should be set up to check corruption. I think, Sir, that some responsible officer or some machinery in the line of the I. B. Department should be set up to check corruption in the department and some very honest officers should be posted in every district to check irregularity and corruption. I have information that even the highly paid officials of the Secretariat Buildings do not care to go to the section and as a result there some assistants pass their time without sufficient work. These things should be checked.

Sir, another department I find is the Publicity Department. When people are in need of correct information this department remain silent. We know during the Calcutta Disturbances the public did not get correct information from this department. Whenever there is disturbance in the mofussil—I know particularly about Dacca—false information and rumours are spread all over the country but the department remain silent and nothing is done to give correct information and to contradict false information. So this department requires a thorough overhauling.

Then as regards development, I find there are already two Medical Colleges in Calcutta and two more Medical Colleges are going to be set up in Calcutta itself—one is near Sealdah and another in Dhakuria area. Why Northern Bengal and Chittagong should be neglected? Everything is being centralised in Calcutta at the cost of mofussil. Is it not desirable that such good institutions should be set up in mofussil area so that the people of mofussil can get benefit out of those institutions?

As regards rehabilitation, in the Budget I find provision for the salaries of the officials as if it is a Budget for the rehabilitation of the officials only. There is no provision for any other work by these officials to the public.

Now, Sir, coming to the allegations made against very good officers of the Dacca district from where I come I can say that these allegations are not at all correct. It has become a fashion with the other side to make allegations, systematic allegations against good Muslim officers. In today's cut motions and debate we have found that in almost all the cut motions

particular names of very good ~~Minister~~ officers have been mentioned and false allegations have been made against them. I know Mr. Bhattacharjee when he was doing his tour in Dacca—

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

MR. DEWAN LUTFAR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the general administration of the Province is being managed by officers who are regarded as steel framed bureaucrats and about whom a quarter of a century ago Mr. Montague, the then Under-Secretary of State for India, expressed that the officers of this bureaucratic Government are "too wooden and too imaginative". That was the ground for introduction of Reforms by which the administration should pass into the hands of the people of the country.

Sir, since then we have had two instalments of Reforms and in 1937 the administration of the Province passed into the hands of popular Ministers. This Reform was hailed by us with high hopes and we thought that a new era had begun when popular Ministers would take bold and progressive steps and would initiate progressive programme of Reform to create a better Bengal, chronic poverty, sickness and illiteracy of the people will go and a career of prosperity would start. We had great hopes that since the inauguration of Reforms the "too wooden and too imaginative" mentality of the bureaucratic Government would change and they would be more and more popular, mix with people more and more closely and be real servants of the public along with the assumption of office by Ministers. They would feel that they are paid by the people and they exist for the people. Unless and until this feeling and mentality is created the Provincial as well as District administration cannot improve. I would suggest that steps may be taken so that District administrators may take into confidence the leaders of the people, specially those who are interested to keep up the prestige of administration, law and order. I believe, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy will not be able to deny that in spite of the deep-rooted conspiracy of the Congress which took a naked shape in the Great Calcutta Killing he has been able to keep peace in majority of districts of Bengal more with the untiring efforts and co-operation of the leaders of people than with efforts and activities of his District administrators.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know of Pabna where this bureaucratic mentality was exhibited in all its nakedness by taking all powers of food distribution in the hands of officials, superseding all the food committees against great dissatisfaction of people of all classes and communities so much so that a notice under section 80 of the Civil Procedure Code was served on the local Government to institute a civil suit against Government for maldistribution.

In order to improve District administration I like to put some suggestions. District Magistrates at present are very busy in various works of relief and rehabilitation. They are undertaking extensive touring owing to abnormal situation in the country; as a result they cannot do judicial part of their business. I am aware that due to hard pressure of work, criminal appeals and motions filed before them are not attended to for more than six months. I know that criminal appeals moved for admission are adjourned and adjourned till over six months to the great prejudice and inconvenience of public. This delay gives rise to fresh troubles and justice delayed is justice denied. I suggest that senior Deputy Magistrates with appellate power or Additional District Magistrates may be posted in every district.

My next suggestion is that non-official Advisory Board may be established in every district to discuss important administrative matters in these days of abnormal situation. I believe in my humble judgment that the office of Divisional Commissioners, which is nothing but a post box office, should be abolished and money thus saved may be diverted towards education.*

It is said that officers have become communal minded. This is very boldly said from the Opposition. Eighty per cent. of the officers are kinsmen, brothers, relations of my friends of the Opposition, so they are in a better position to say whether officers are communal or not.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED AZIZUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই House-এ মুখ আন্দোলন হচ্ছে এবং প্রাইম সেধা বার Opposition Party থেকে বলছে যে আমরা communal এবং মুসলিম জাতির অনুপেক্ষ, তাদের উপর কোন ক্ষমতা নাহত করা যেতে পারে না। কিন্তু communal শব্দটা কোথা থেকে দৃষ্টি হ'ল সেটা পরিষ্কার করে বোঝা দরকার।

পক্ষ-বিশ বছর পূর্বে এই communal শব্দটা বড় একটা শোনা যায় নাই। তখন চাকরীতে শতকরা ৯০ জন লোকই ছিল Opposition Partyর বাকালী হিন্দু এবং শতকরা ১০ জন মাত্র ছিল মুসলমান, তাও নীচের শ্রেণীর চাকরীতে—দারোয়ান ও নীচের clerk ইত্যাদিতে ছিল। সেই সময় পর্যন্ত কোথাও কোন communal শব্দ দেখা যায় নাই। Communal শব্দটা তখনই উৎপত্তি হল, যখন মুসলমানদের তরফ থেকে দাবী করা হ'ল—population হিসেবে আমরা বাংলায় শতকরা ৫৬ জন—কাজেই সরকারী চাকরীতে অন্ততঃ ৫৬টা seat দেও। তখনই দেখা গেল আমরা communal আর communal শব্দটাও তখন শোনা গেল।

বিশ বছর পূর্বে দেখা গেছে জুল কিংবা কলেজে যখন সরস্বতী পূজা কিংবা কালী পূজা করা হ'ত আমরা মুসলমানরা সেই সময় তার যাতে grandeur বেশী হয়, সেজন্য আমরা হিন্দুদের নানাভাবে সাহায্য করেছি, টালা দিয়েছি, টালা উঠিয়েছি, এমন কি নৈবেদ্য সংগ্রহেও সাহায্য করেছি। কিন্তু সেই সময় এই communal শব্দটা শোনা যায় নাই। বাংলার communal শব্দটা শোনা গেল তখন, যখন মুসলমানেরা দাবী করল—population basis-এ তাদের চাকরী দেওয়া হোক। তখনই আমরা হয়ে গেলান communal। আর দেখা গেল বকঃবলে এবং টাইমে যে জলের জল আছে, সেখানে জল আনতে গেলে হিন্দুরা জল নিতে লিভ না। এখন হিন্দু বিধবারা জল নেবে, আমরা একটু জল নিয়ে নেই, তামরা জল নিতে এসে সন্ধ্যার পর। তাহলে এখন বোঝা গেল এই communal শব্দটা কোথা থেকে কে স্থাপন করল। communal শব্দটা উপস্থিত কবেছেন কংগ্রেসের কর্তারা, যাঁরা অথও ভারতের জন্য ইংরেজের সঙ্গে যুদ্ধ করেছেন। ইংরেজদের অধীনে আমরা গোলাম, সেই গোলামদের আজাদী পাওয়ার জন্য তাঁরা যুদ্ধ করেছেন এবং মুসলিম লীগ যুদ্ধ করেছে অথও ভারতের জন্য আজাদীর জন্য। সেটা কার হাত থেকে রক্ষা পাওয়ার জন্য? সেই ইংরেজের হাত থেকে রক্ষা পাওয়ার জন্য (হা, হা,—Laughter from the Opposition.) যখন অথও ভারতের আজাদীর জন্য August Movement আরম্ভ হ'ল, তখন মুসলমানরা কি তার বিরুদ্ধাচরণ করেছিল, না, তার বাধা দিয়েছিল, না, তার সহায়তা বাধা দিয়েছিল? কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যখন মুসলমানরা আজাদীর জন্য অথও ভারত দাবী করছে, পাকিস্তান দাবী করল, তখন দেখা গেল anti-Pakistan আন্দোলন। তখনই হ'ল মুসলমানেরা communal।

বাক্, আমি আমাদের Minister সাহেবের এদিকে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি, তিনি যদি একটু লক্ষ্য করেন জাহ'লে দেখবেন—

(A VOICE: লালবাতি লক্ষ্য করুন।)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. SYED AZIZUR RAHMAN: এক মিনিট স্যার। আজকাল রেলটায়ারে অনেক সময় ওঠা যায় না, অথচ তাদের ভাড়া বিত্তন দেওয়া হচ্ছে। কিন্তু যাত্রীদের কোন রকম দুঃখ-সুবিধা দেওয়া হচ্ছে না। ট্রায়ার কোম্পানী এক ঝালকাঠী ষ্টেশন থেকে কত টাকাই না আয় করছেন। আড়াইগুণ ভাড়া বৃদ্ধি করেছেন। কিন্তু সেই ষ্টেশনে যাত্রীদের থাকবার কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের কি উচিত নয় তাদের থেকে দৃষ্টি করা? রাত্রি বেলায় বরিশালে নৌকার যাত্রাসাত করা যায় না ডাকাতির ভয়ে। ডাকাতিদের হাত থেকে জনসাধারণকে রক্ষা করা কি গভর্ণমেন্টের কর্তব্য নয়?

(Mr. Muhammad Owais rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: You will speak for three minutes.

Mr. MAHAMMAD OWAIS: Sir, I shall speak a few points about the communal Government as alleged by my friends on the other side. I shall speak on the unhappy incident of Sandpur. On the day of the immersion

ceremony of the Goddess of Learning, the Muslim students anticipated that an unhappy incident will take place, because it is not any other ceremony but the immersion of the Goddess of Learning. In previous years 8 to 10 licences were issued for the Goddess of Learning—Saraswati, but this year there were 32 images of which 24 were licensed and 8 unlicensed (Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar: You broke all the surplus unlicensed images?) When the procession of the immersion ceremony of the Goddess of Learning came before the mosque, the Police let the 24 images pass which had licence and stopped 8 images which had no licence. Instead of a clash with the Police the processionists attacked the mosque there. There were a few Muslims who assembled there in order to say their prayers. At the same time the processionists took part in looting Muslim shops in the Saidpur town. 34 shops were looted and at the same time fire and arson took place and 140 Muslim houses were burnt to ashes. The S.D.O., the D.S.P., Inspector of Police, and the Sub-Inspector were present there, but they did not even fire a blank shot to disperse the mob. Afterwards on the day following when the innocent Muslims heard these things and were coming towards the place of occurrence, about one and a half miles distant from Saidpur, the Police went and opened fire on the innocent and unarmed Muslims who were coming to see the conditions of their brethren. And what did the Police do? They opened 49 rounds on the innocent Muslims. Had they not been 49, they would not have fired 49 rounds on the innocent Muslims. I drew the attention of Hon'ble the Chief Minister to the incident and I was told that action would be taken, but I have got the report that up till now no action has been taken.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MUHAMMAD IDRIS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make certain observations on the policy of the Government so far as the Local Self-Government is concerned. First of all I criticise the policy of joint electorate in the local bodies such as District Boards, Union Boards and Municipalities. By adopting the system of joint electorate the Government has failed to protect the rights and interests of the minorities in these local bodies. Of course I cannot hold the present Ministry responsible for this joint electorate as it was not the creation of this Ministry but of their predecessor. However, in these days, Sir, I think the policy of joint electorate is a misnomer. Today the political parties in Bengal mean Hindu party in the name of Congress party and Muslim party in the name of Muslim League and today this party principle is so rigidly and strictly followed by all including the ordinary masses that no Muslim however patriotic and a good citizen he may be can get any vote from the Hindus in Western Bengal where the Muslims are in a helpless minority. The Government of course introduced the policy of reservation of certain seats for the minority communities in these local bodies with an idea to safeguard their interest to certain extent. This system of reservation of seats is also of no good because of the joint electorate. Reservation of seats were certainly meant for a fair representation of the community concerned. But alas! here also if a Muslim candidate gets even more than 99 per cent. votes of the Muslims cannot get returned for the simple reason that the Hindus who are in an overwhelming majority in West Bengal do not vote for him. Rather they vote for their own man who cannot claim to represent Muslims. Thus if a Muslim candidate even getting more than 99 per cent. votes of the Muslims fails to return as their representative in these local bodies then what is the good of merely reserving a few seats for them. Reservation of seats is therefore nothing but a mere farce so long as joint electorate is there.

I do not know exactly what is the position of the Hindus who are in minority in Eastern Bengal. I think their condition is almost like ours

in West Bengal. I do hope therefore that the Government will do away with joint electorate policy and introduce immediately separate electorate in the local bodies in order to safeguard the interests of minority community.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last War gave us an excess of misfortune as well as fortune. People in major parts of the districts got extra fortune and they were rolling in luxury. Money came like anything, but Sir they did not know how to keep that money.

Sir, the last unfortunate flood has devastated their paddy fields, they have no food to eat and they are now thrown on the street. Only the other day the very people who were rolling in wealth and luxury are now forced to beg on account of the unforeseen accidents and calamities. These people require protection in the hands of Government. They should be taught economy, they should be taught thrift, they should be taught how to keep their body and soul together in times of scarcity. A large number of people has now become very reckless; they do not know how to save some money and it would therefore be the foremost duty of the Government to take up this matter into their serious consideration and set up a committee to enquire into the conduct of these people and see if any system can be introduced to make these people economical so that accidental circumstances may not lead them to miseries and compel them to call for Government help in every respect.

Sir, charges have been laid against this Government that everywhere there is communalism. I admit that there is communalism and this unfortunate communalism is poisoning the very administration. Why? It is only on account of the fact that 75 to 80 per cent of the officers belong to the community of the members of the Opposition and they are communal-minded (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Muslim League Benches). Honourable members of the Opposition have emphasised the necessity of doing away with communalism and I also join with them in emphasising with greater force the necessity of getting rid of this communal administration because the only solution lies in the enforcement of the Communal Ratio Rules in the strictest possible terms.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, a considerable amount of field has been covered by the honourable members but I do not think that a reply is called for in every case as most of these matters have been dealt with already in the course of this session. I will, however, refer to certain specific points that have been raised which I consider members would like to know something about. From the beginning of the discussions a gibe has been thrown at Pakistan and I find from the notes placed before me that an honourable member has said that Pakistan would mean utter destruction of the Hindus of East Bengal, and it connotes abduction of women, etc., etc. Alas! Pakistan is not yet in operation. If Pakistan were in operation I do not think that any incident would have occurred in this fair land with regard to which anybody could have any objection. If Pakistan means an independent country—as I hope it will mean that—we shall be able to look after ourselves and be able to settle our problems.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: You will not. What about Noakhali and Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Has the honourable member who is jumping and shouting ever heard of Bihar? Has he also heard of the atrocities in Meerut?

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Why don't you condemn Noakhali?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Has the honourable member ever heard what has happened at Garmukteswar, Allahabad, Benares, etc.? They should search their own hearts first. (Loud noise.) (A voice from the Opposition: "Search your own heart".) None of these places are in Pakistan.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: But all these followed Noakhali.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You should hide your face in shame. (Loud noise from the Opposition.) Let us all of us examine the position carefully and not throw gibes at each other.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: We know what it is. Please look to your own heart.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not think, Sir, that I need refer to the unfounded remarks made against the Muslim officers. (Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Not unfounded.) I do not wish to say anything which may appear to be discriminatory in character. I am prepared to say this that in spite of the terrible communal tension that we find in this place, as exemplified by the conduct of some of my friends opposite, I think that on the whole this Province has been very fairly served by its officers. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI:** Not correct.) I find that Hindus have suspicion against Muslim officers, Muslims have suspicion against Hindu officers. It is through these suspicions that we have to steer a middle course and I would not like at this stage to state which way the suspicion is more justified than another.

Sir, a reference has been made to 1942 prisoners. In some cases, Sir, orders have been passed for the release of some of them and also certain warrants have been recalled. This will be made known through a Press Note to the public, but there is one point that we have still maintained and that is that where the offences have been accompanied by violence of a peculiar kind, we have not exercised the prerogative of clemency. It is necessary that violent conduct should not be condoned too easily. I am not aware if the honourable members on the other side will remember that all of them at some time or other disowned the 1942 movement. However much sympathy they may show at this stage, I think they definitely disowned it and I do not agree that the march to independence has at all been accelerated by what took place in 1942. (**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI:** Certainly.)

Reference has been made to incidents in Saidpur. It has been a matter of enquiry. Mr. Owens has asked for an enquiry. That enquiry has been held and the results of that enquiry are under my consideration. I only wish to say that there has been burning and looting on both sides and that has been unfortunate. I would rather, Sir, that the Press took no note of the figures which I am going to place before the House because I do not want retaliation of any kind anywhere, but the House might know the facts about all the incidents that took place. The facts are that 41 Muslim shops were looted, 52 Muslim houses were burnt and 44 Hindu houses were burnt. I do not think, Sir, that after that my friends opposite will claim that the Muslims were the aggressors. (**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI:** Who collected the figures?) These have been counted and no less a person than the highest authority in that area visited that place and made this report. (**Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR:** Concealed.)

With regard to Dacca, the less said the better—the less said by my friends opposite, the better. Again I would request the Press not to publish what I am stating because it may give rise to serious repercussions outside this House. Sir, there were four specific periods of lawlessness and in the space between the different specific periods of lawlessness there was a lull, but each lull was broken by violence from the Hindu side. (**Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI:** Question.) (Uproar.) I did not like to refer to what took place at Dacca because I was hoping that good relationship would be established there between the two communities. But an honourable member has referred to Dacca and as it will go down on record, it is just as well that people should know what has actually taken place. One can understand what took place there when I refer the honourable members to the facts one by one—again I ask the Press not to take note of it—I state this because

I received daily reports and was watching the situation that it was the Hindus that started murdering for the first time Muslims women and children. I ask the honourable members opposite to hide their heads in shame. Nowhere before had there been any such instance where women and children were singled out for murder as had taken place at Dacca and it is on account of that that we have imposed for the murder of women and children 8 times the municipal rate as collective fine which has upset very much my honourable friends opposite. Anyway the religious edifices that were burnt, there were 20 mosques that were damaged and of them 9 were wholly demolished. As to Hindu temples, 7 cases have been reported and in not one case has a temple been demolished and the last case of which a good deal was made was that somebody threw a burning rag in the temple which scorched the face of the idol and the rafters of the temple. Whereas if you go - any one in this House can go and see now—you will see for yourself how these mosques have been absolutely demolished and razed to the ground. It does not lie in the mouth of my friends opposite to talk about Dacca and that the Hindus of Dacca have been badly treated. I do not think, Sir, that I need go more into the details of what have occurred there. It is solely because the honourable members opposite are responsible people and the honourable members on this side are also responsible and they will not be inflamed, that I have placed these facts before you. But I do request you that if you do make criticisms, let them be valid, let them have some substratum of truth.

Coming to the matter of the officers and the establishments relating to the Legislative Assembly, I need hardly inform the House that the prestige and independence of the House is by no means at stake. So far as the officers are concerned, I do not know what is there behind their mind, but I do think they have been trying their best to place themselves on the same level as the Government officers—as those belonging directly to the Secretariat and under the orders of the Government of Bengal. I will not press this matter further because very shortly we are meeting at a conference for the purpose of discussing the emoluments of the officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Sir, Mr. Jyoti Basu has spoken very violently against a particular officer of the Government. I was intending to meet his remarks in a spirit of cordiality, but after the somewhat rude—I would say, worse than unparliamentary—remarks which have been made by him I do not propose to deal with the points raised by this honourable member. I wish to tell the House that it will always be my policy here that if any honourable member desires an answer and desires any points to be met, I expect that he will state his case in the House in a manner in which it ought to be debated in a Legislative Assembly.

As regards the report of the Rowlands Committee, I am sorry that the honourable members sitting opposite, I mean the members of the European Group, are still clinging to the fetish of the Government of India services. Sir, it is logical that if we hope to have an independent Bengal, the services of Bengal should be cut away from the all-India services. It is far better that the officers of Bengal should look to this Government, good or bad; which will be supported by the people of the Province, rather than look to a Government absolutely outside this Province that may probably have the backing of a hostile part of India (A Voice: friendly). I think those who understand politics will be able to understand what I am driving at.

As regards future recruitment it will be done by the local Provincial Public Service Commission, and I hope that the terms that we will offer will be such as will attract the best people to Bengal. My friend has referred to political pressure. I do not know where he has got it from. Probably he has read—what shall I call it? I won't name any particular paper—presumably he has referred to some of the so-called nationalist papers. Sir, I claim that no political pressure has been brought to bear

upon any Government servant. As a matter of fact I think that the honourable members have seen that Government servants have been allowed to have their say fully without any action being taken against them. They must impartially judge the patience and consideration with which this Ministry has treated its servants. I will be prepared to say this that I shall certainly not allow any action of any Government servant to pass us, if there are definite charges and statements regarding favouritism or communalism or injustice, but I have to be satisfied that there is some such charge. No political pressure has been brought to bear upon any officer and that should be sufficient.

Uptill now we have not been able to accept the report of the Rowlands Committee upon the point that the Public Service Commission should suggest the names of as many candidates as there are vacancies. It has not been necessary for us to differ either from it because the Public Service Commission, as a rule, only submit the names of as many candidates as there are vacancies.

As regards the publication of the report *in toto* I am sorry that I have not had time to consider the point, because the matter has not assumed any very great importance. As a rule Government have not differed from the Public Service Commission (Cries of "question", "question" from the Opposition Benches) and it is not therefore necessary to place before the House any such facts which Government desire or may desire to conceal.

The honourable member has also referred to the partitioning of certain districts which are unwieldy administratively. Sir, we are enquiring and looking into the matter more closely than merely from the point of view of partitioning of certain districts. There are many administrative units that need be separated and amalgamated for better administration and the final adjustment will result not only in the partitioning of certain districts but I hope in the setting up of administratively possible units which can be looked after by a District Officer properly.

I do not think that there is any other point which calls for further consideration in the House. There has been an increase in the cost of this Department, but I think the honourable members ought to know that the pay of most of the clerical staff—not so much the pay of the higher staff—and pay of the menials has been increased considerably and it means considerable increase in the cost of the administration. It will be my duty to take note of the constructive remarks which have been placed before us from various parts of the House and thereafter to consider the advisability of accepting or rejecting them.

Sir, I ask that the House do vote this grant.

The motion of Mr. Haripada Chatterjee that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Provash Chandra Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs. 2,53,72,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that a sum of Rs. 2,53,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-35 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 22nd March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 22nd March, 1947, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NUTU AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 184 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Bihar evacuees in Bengal.

- ▲ *180. **Mr. SATIS CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation, Credit and Relief Department be pleased to state—

- (a) how many Bihar evacuees have been accommodated in Bengal, and where;
- (b) whether the Government of Bengal bear the expenses incurred on account of these evacuees;
- (c) what is the amount fixed per head per month for their expenses; and
- (d) what sum the Government has spent on this head up to date, and what is the total amount sanctioned on that head?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman): (a) A statement is laid on the Table

(b) Yes.

(c) Rupees 18 for maintenance

(d) Collection of information as to the sum spent will take time. A sum of Rs.23,20,000 has been sanctioned up to the 20th February, 1947, for cost of maintenance, water-supply, repairs to camps, etc., and in addition, clothing and accessory foodstuff (excluding milk) and clothing worth Rs.2,43,000 approximately have been supplied.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 180

District in which the camp is situated.	Location or name of camp.	Number of refugees in the camp.	Number of refugees liv- ing else- where.
1	2	3	4
Calcutta	(1) Alipore	1,814	20,000
	(2) Lower Chitpore Road	1,861	
	(3) Balai Dutta Street	1,148	
	(4) Mirzapore Street	1,272	
	(5) Linton Street	1,240	
	(6) Barrackpore Trunk Road	892	
	(7) Nikashipara	912	
	(8) Princep Street	427	
	(9) Raja Dinendra Street	626	
	(10) Belgachia	657	
	(11) Marcus Square	643	
	(12) Santoshpur	594	
	(13) Hastings	235	
	(14) Bahmukund Macker Road	1,000	

District in which the camp is situated.		Location or name of camp.	Number of refugees in the camp.	Number of refugees liv- ing else where.
1		2	3	4
Hooghly	..	(1) Pandua	.. 1,985	7,724
		(2) Bandel	.. 291	
Dinajpur	..	(1) B. R. Camp	.. 6,050	
Bankura	..	(1) Vishnupur	.. 3,696	
Burdwan	..	(1) Kendulia	.. 5,551	
		(2) Madhaiganj	.. 3,221	
		(3) Moira	.. 3,222	
		(4) Nangha	.. 344	
		(5) Chanda	.. 1,548	
		(6) Bogra	.. 1,374	
		(7) Nimdanga	.. 1,214	
		(8) Sripur	.. 938	
		(9) Nawabnagar	.. 5,000	
		(10) Kashipur	.. 3,000	
		(11) Shalkuni	.. 2,000	
Howrah	..	(1) Foreshore Road	.. 2,289	
Midnapore	..	(1) Salboni	.. 4,900	
		(2) Salboni	.. 2,700	
		(3) Dighri	.. 1,000	
Nadia	..	..	..	14
Murshidabad	..	..	..	773
Jalpaiguri	..	..	..	75
Birbhum	..	..	..	339
Rajshahi	..	..	..	373
Khulna	..	..	..	400

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long does the Government desire to keep these refugees from Bihar in Bengal?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Until the Bihar Government change their attitude.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the way in which the evacuees were received in Bengal? How did they come in Bengal? Did Government bring them or they came of their own accord?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: They came on their own initiative.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA CUHA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by the "number of refugees living elsewhere"?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: They have been accommodated in other districts by the local inhabitants and they are being given dry doles.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a Bengal Government official was sent to Bihar, and, if so, for what purpose he was sent there?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: For co-ordination of relief.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bihar has been moved to bear the expenses of the refugees coming from Bihar to Bengal?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Negotiations are going on.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the peaceful condition prevailing in Bihar the Bengal Government proposes to send back these Bihar refugees to Bihar?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: According to the view of these refugees the condition in Bihar is not at all satisfactory.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these refugees come from agriculturist class, how many from the business community and how many service holders?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any effort is being made by the Bengal Government with a view to keeping them permanent in Bengal?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Nothing has as yet been decided.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: মাননীয় স্বামী মহাশয় বলবেন কি এই শৃংখলার clause (a)-তে যে Statement লিখিত করা হয়েছে তাতে দেখা যায় যে কলিকাতা থেকে আগত করে বাংলায় বসবাসের তেজাগুরি যে সমস্ত স্থান হিন্দুস্থান সেই সমস্ত স্থানেই বিহারের Evacuees স্থান দেওয়া হয়েছে, এটা পাকিস্তান পরিকল্পনার একটি অংশ কি না?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No. As these places are near to Bihar, they have settled there.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that 6,000 Bihar refugees are there in the district town of Dinajpur, and in view of the fact that there has been no special allotment of cloth, sugar and kerosene for them, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to increase the quota for these things so that the permanent inhabitants of Dinajpur town may not suffer?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Government will bear that in mind.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: In view of the reply given a few minutes ago, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the official who was sent to Bihar was sent in accordance with the invitation received from the Bihar Government?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN-AHMED: No.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the Bihar Refugee Camp in the Berhampore subdivisional town the refugees did not get dry doles regularly on account of the unsympathetic attitude of the local officers?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Government will look into the matter.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why a Government official of Bengal was sent to Bihar then?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have already stated that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to how co-ordination of relief could be obtained without any consultation or co-operation with the Bihar Government?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The officer particularly approached the Chief Minister of the Bihar Government.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what up till now the Bihar Government has done to redress the pitiable condition of the refugees coming to Bengal?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Nothing.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any one of the refugees from Bihar has been given any land in Bengal with a view to permanent settlement?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No; not as yet.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bihar Government has arranged to call back their refugees from Bengal and give them shelter and safety?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: There is no such arrangement, as yet.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bihar refugees are being prevented from going back to Bihar?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the amount of relief given per head per month to the Bihar refugees is the same as that given to the Noakhali evacuees?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The same rate is given.

Mr. KHACENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Bihar refugees have been given shelter in Saidpur?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: They are scattered.

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: With regard to the 400 Bihar refugees in Khulna, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the locality where they have been sheltered?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has already been answered that they are scattered.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the report published in a section of the Muslim Press that some of the Bihar refugees were engaged in furtherance of the interests of a section of the Muslims who are supporting a person appearing as a candidate for the Presidentship of the Provincial Council of the Muslim League?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have no such report.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any one of the refugees from Bihar has been given any service by the Government of Bengal?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government of Bengal have up till now taken to realise the money that has been spent for the Bihar refugees by the Bengal Government from the Bihar Government?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have already answered that question. The matter is under consideration.

Mr. MONORANJAN DHAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the Press report to the effect that a section of the Bihar refugees are creating troubles in Burdwan and harassing the people there?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No such report has been received.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government has under contemplation any scheme for the permanent settlement of these Bihar refugees in Bengal?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have already answered that question.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, he has answered that it has not been decided, and I ask, if they are considering the question.

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of refugees given shelter actually?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if the number given in the table is the number that represents the strength of the Bihar refugees today or if it is a number that represented the actual strength of Bihar refugees several weeks ago? I mean to say whether the number shown here in the table has increased or decreased.

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: This is the figure compiled up to 20th February.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the number has increased or decreased since then?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that many of the Bihar refugees who are living in refugee camps are now going back to Bihar to settle there in their own villages leaving the camps here?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I have no such information.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that only recently a clash did occur between the refugees at Sripur camp within the district of Burdwan and the police?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I am not aware of that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any enquiry was made as regards landed and other properties belonging to the refugees of Bihar before granting them any maintenance allowance?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: No, that was not possible.

Mr. MD. ABDUS SALAM: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that some of the police officers oppressed the Bihar refugees at Burdwan?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The matter is under investigation.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what benefit or advantage the Government obtained by sending an official from Bengal to Bihar in connection with these Bihar refugees?

(Mr. Masihuddin Ahmed rose to his feet but no answer was audible.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister please stand up and answer the question so that we may hear him?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Will you please repeat your question?

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: My question was—what benefit or advantage the Government of Bengal obtained by sending an official from here to Bihar since he was sent without any consultation with the Bihar Government in connection with these Bihar refugees?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The officer had been there not in connection with the Bihar refugees but only for co-ordinating relief.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Bengal Government official was doing for relief work in Bihar?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: He was co-ordinating between the different relief organisations.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he particularly means by co-ordination with the Bihar relief organised by Government as the Bengal Government official was sent there when the Bihar Government did not co-operate?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Several bodies of relief workers went to Bihar from Bengal and it was to co-ordinate and centralise their activities that this officer was sent to Bihar.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to why a Government official was sent there? Was it in connection with the Government relief work or private relief work?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The officer had been there to co-ordinate relief work and the activities of the different relief bodies sent to Bihar and in order to assist the Bihar Government in the relief work.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of opening more camps in North Bengal particularly, as the North Bengal people are eager to welcome the Bihar refugees?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Government will consider that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state precisely as to what co-ordination of relief work was aimed at by the Bengal Government official and also what co-ordination could be obtained with the Bihar Government when that Government did not participate in the work of the Bengal Government official?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that question has been sufficiently answered because the officer was sent there with the object of co-ordinating the relief work for the Bihar evacuees done through private source or by Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: We do not know whether the Bengal Government sent anybody for relief work there, and we have not received any answer to that. That is my first point. Secondly if private relief work was being done in Bihar, did the Government consider it necessary to send one of its officials to assist private relief work there, and the Minister did not answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, he has answered.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: What is the answer, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: His answer was that the Bengal Government official was sent there to co-ordinate relief work, either from private sources or from Government.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: But was there any Government source of relief in Bihar from the Bengal Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: Government sent only the officer and no relief the honourable member knows that.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I have one submission to make. Are you sure in your own mind as to what the official reply to this was—I am not sure in my own mind. If you are satisfied, I shall not press. I ask, did the Bengal Government send any relief party to Bihar?

Mr. SPEAKER: Government has answered in this way that private relief workers went there from Bengal to render relief to the affected people there and in order to co-ordinate this work and that which was being done by the Bihar Government, a Government official from Bengal was sent.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Does the Hon'ble Minister say that this Government official was sent to co-ordinate private relief work from Bengal and also to co-ordinate the relief work done by the Bihar Government?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: To co-ordinate with the Bihar Government, so that there may not be any overlapping.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the officer was sent on any requisition by the Bihar Government for the purpose of co-ordinating relief operations?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has been answered. It was not on the requisition of the Bihar Government but on the initiative of the Bengal Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many such officers were deputed for this purpose?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Only one officer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the name of the officer who was deputed by the Government of Bengal and whether the Bengal Government received any communication from the Government of Bihar on the subject?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Rs. 18 given for the maintenance of one refugee per month is sufficient for the maintenance of the refugee?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: Government consider that to be sufficient.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how co-ordination work was possible for this officer when the

Government of Bihar issued a Press note that the officer was not wanted in Bihar and that the Bengal Government could send materials and not officers?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: That was done subsequently.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that the Bihar Government issued a Press note that the Bengal Government sent the officer without any prior consultation with the Bihar Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has been already answered that the Bengal Government sent this officer on their own initiative without any requisition received from the Bihar Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, my question is a different one. I want to know whether in spite of the refusal of the Bihar Government the officer was sent without prior consultation.

Mr. SPEAKER: This was done subsequently.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the amount of expenses incurred in connection with the sending of this officer to Bihar?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what head of public expense out of public revenue was this particular expenditure incurred?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government has received any communication from the Dinajpur public saying that on a Muslim festival day these Bihar refugees equipped with dangerous weapons were crying slogans like "Larke lengey Pakistan, etc." and if so what steps have been taken in that behalf?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The answer is emphatically in the negative.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Supplementary question, Sir

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable members have been dealing with this question for 20 minutes. I think this question has been dealt with sufficiently.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will you kindly allow me to put one question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow this question to be dealt with for one hour. There must be a time limit.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, there are only three questions in the Order Paper and in view of the importance of this question I submit that you should allow a little more time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Because it is important I have allowed 20 minutes over this question, but there must be a time-limit. There are so many lawyers amongst you and if you go on cross-examining in this way, there will be no end of it.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he considers it a desirable practice on the part of one Provincial Government to send officials in such matters to another Provincial Government without their consent specially when they did not ask for an officer to be sent over there?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed these supplementary questions though they strictly speaking do not come within the purview of the main question because nothing was said in the main question with regard to the officer. Only information regarding Bihar evacuees kept in Bengal has been asked for in the main question. It seems that the House has concentrated its attention on an officer who was deputed by this Government to Bihar and not to Bihar evacuees kept in Bengal. We are concerned here with those evacuees who have come to Bengal.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I submit, Sir, that the supplementary questions that are being put do arise out of the answer to question (b). The question is whether the Government of Bengal bear the expenses incurred on account of these evacuees and the answer is "yes." Now the expenses for sending out these officers have been borne by the Government of Bengal, and I submit that the question relating to the expenses for sending out these officers leads to these supplementary questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is farfetched.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal made any representation to the Bihar Government to arrange to have their refugees back into the Province?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer was that negotiations were going on.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: How long have these negotiations been proceeding and who are carrying on these negotiations on behalf of the Government of Bengal as well as on behalf of the Government of Bihar?

Mr. SPEAKER: Evidently the two Governments.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The House would like to have the information whether the Chief Minister of the Province is negotiating with the Chief Minister of Bihar or whether it is an officer of the Relief Department of the Bengal Government who is carrying on negotiation. This is an important matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: If any officer is carrying on negotiation he is certainly carrying on under instructions from the Chief Minister.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I submit, Sir, that this is a piece of information which Government can only supply. For yourself and for us it is only a matter of surmise. I ask the Hon'ble Minister to be pleased to state as to which officer has been deputed for the purpose of carrying on these negotiations which, we are told, are proceeding for some time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think this is very important, because we are concerned only with regard to the policy of the Government. Whether they are sending X, Y or Z we are not concerned with that. I do not think this is a subject of public importance. It is unimportant as to which officer is doing this, which officer is drafting a letter or who is signing it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is not doing justice to the question I put to say which officer is doing this, or which officer is drafting a letter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us find out what is important, so that public interest may be served. Let us confine ourselves to this important matter as to whether Government is carrying on negotiations or not.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why some members of this House are holding brief for the Government of Bihar?

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of privilege, Sir. Is it for the Chair, I ask your ruling on this point, to decide what is important or what is unimportant? My next point is: would it be politic or desirable for the Chair to rule out questions only because they are comparatively unimportant though admissible under the rules? My submission is this that if they are admissible under the rules, the Chair has, I respectfully urge, no right to refuse these questions and the Minister is bound to reply. It is not for the Chair to judge what would be the reply of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Chair considers a question to be frivolous, he has absolute authority to refuse that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I rise on a point of order. May I know from you which question of mine was ruled out by you as frivolous? I am asking for your ruling on this point.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the reply from the Government was that the Government is carrying on negotiations with regard to Bihar refugees with the Government of Bihar I thought that that was an information which would satisfy the member. The question as to which officer is carrying on negotiations was thought as frivolous and that is what I ruled out.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I want to elicit information as to whether the Chief Minister of Bengal has contacted first the Chief Minister of Bihar in connection with these negotiations.

Mr. SPEAKER: You did not put the question in this way. Here you are deviating from your original question.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: You did not allow me to proceed with the question. I put it in this way. In view of the fact that in connection with relief, rehabilitation, etc., the Government of Bengal has entrusted this function to an officer, I want to know whether Government has deputed any member of the Cabinet for the purpose of carrying on these negotiations?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: The Chief Minister and the Minister for Relief contacted the Bihar Government and negotiation is going on.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Sir, Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar put three or four questions, Mr. Ghose four or five as well as Mr. Sinha. You are going to allow so many members to put questions—

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, my question was, as it was put before by Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar, that, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers it a desirable practice on the part of one Province to send its officer to another Province in such matters without consultation with that Government and when that Government specifically said that they did not want any officer to be sent there?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has been answered. You are putting several questions. His reply was that the Government of Bengal sent the officer on their own initiative without consulting the Government of Bihar, and when it was pointed out by the Government of Bihar he was recalled.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Whether it is a desirable practice? That is my question. Am I not entitled to put that question? Why does the Hon'ble Minister not answer it?

Mr. MASIHUDDIN AHMED: I don't think I should answer. It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. NASARULLA: That was a good-will mission.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: If it is a matter of opinion, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the opinion of the Ministry.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government has replied. I don't think any more question can be allowed.

Proposed establishment of Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute.

***181. Mr. MADAR BUX:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a public-spirited gentleman has made a gift of property worth Rs.5,00,000 yielding an annual income of Rs.14,000 for the purpose of developing the present Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute of Rajshahi into a full-fledged Government Agricultural College?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government has taken to convert the said institute into a full-fledged Government College?

(c) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to expedite the execution of the scheme, if any, without any further delay?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain):

(a) Government promissory notes of the face value of Rs. 2,50,000 carrying an interest of Rs. 3 per cent. were placed by the late Basanta Kumar Roy in the hands of Government for creating an endowment the interest of which was to be applied for several alternative purposes one of which was the establishment of an agricultural institution at Rajshahi. In 1936 by agreement with the executors of the Will of the late Mr. Roy, the sum of Rs. 2,50,000 increased by another Rs. 1,00,000 being the interest which accrued on the original bequest was invested in Government promissory notes and securities and the entire amount vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments on condition that the annual income amounting to about Rs. 1,00,000 was to be used for the establishment and maintenance at Rajshahi of an institution for agricultural instruction to be called "Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute, Rajshahi".

(b) and (c) The income of the endowment is not adequate to the establishment or maintenance of either an agricultural college or even a properly equipped agricultural school. Government are doubtful of the necessity of having a second college for agriculture in Bengal, and have at the moment a proposal under consideration for converting the institute into a school under direct Government management for the training of agricultural demonstrators.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় বহী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি—
বাংলাদেশে কলিকাতা এবং ঢাকার দুইটি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থাকা সত্ত্বেও যদি আর একটি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পরিষ্করণ করা হয় তাহলে দুইটি Agricultural College থাকলেও যদি আর একটি বাড়ান হয় তাহলে কি কোন কতি আছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: The first part of the question is not allowed. It may be asked whether Government consider it necessary to have another agricultural school or college?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The question of profit and loss does not arise.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় বহী মহাশয়, profit and loss এর কথা আমার প্রশ্ন নয়—আমার প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে আর একটি Agricultural College হলে কোন কতি হবে কিনা আমি শুধু তাই জিজ্ঞাসা করছি।

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think agriculture should be improved.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the grounds for Government's doubts about the necessity of having a second college or school for agriculture in Bengal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: They have not decided to start a second college

Mr. A. F. STARK: Why? The Hon'ble Minister has not answered my question. It has been stated in reply (b) and (c) "Government are doubtful of the necessity of having a second college for agriculture in Bengal." I ask, the Hon'ble Minister, to explain the reason for Government's doubts of the necessity for a second college.

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: According to the present demand one agricultural college is sufficient.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain how many pupils can be taken in the Agricultural Institute at Dacca?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in this session's cut motions there is a demand for agricultural institutions at Feni, Seraganj and other places?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. PROVAS CHANDRA LAHIRI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, জনগণের দ্বারা প্রদত্ত একটি বাছাই একটি Agricultural School-এর জন্য প্রদানকারী এক public donation এর ৫০ হাজার টাকা দিয়ে ৮ লক্ষ টাকা পেয়েছিল কি না? এবং রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় Agricultural Institution-এর জন্য public donation এর ৪০ লক্ষ টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে তাইবা কোন ব্যক্তি প্রদত্ত না করে?।

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The proposal for an agricultural school at Garbanda was mooted long before this Ministry came in office, it was in 1944. As a matter of fact, the amount was contributed with an expressed desire for the establishment of an agricultural school, whereas here no such contribution was made to Government for establishment of an agricultural school, but an endowment fund has been created.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: In view of his answer that an additional agricultural school is not necessary, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplate refunding property worth five lakhs of rupees to the heirs of the donor, if his condition is not going to be fulfilled?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government has nothing to do with the refund of this money; the money has been entrusted with the executors of the will and not with the Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: As just now indicated by the Hon'ble Minister that Government is not going to develop the Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute into a full-fledged agricultural college at Rajshahi, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will see to it that the money donated for this purpose will be refunded to the heirs of the donor?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The whole amount was placed in charge of the executors of the Will and the starting of an agricultural college at Rajshahi was one of the intentions of the will. The money is not at the disposal of the Government and the question of refund does not therefore arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has got any frame-work of any scheme formed in a spirit of the conditions of this contribution which has been placed at the disposal of Government for this purpose?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government thought of establishing a fruit training centre at Krishnagar by this money, but the executors of the Will are not agreeable to the removal of this institute from Rajshahi to Krishnagar.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government corresponded with the executors of the Will as to whether they will agree to the establishment of a similar institution at Krishnagar?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think they will be agreeable to have an agricultural school at Rajshahi instead of at Krishnagar.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether intending candidates for admission into the Dacca Agricultural College, could not be accommodated for want of seats in that college?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I think so.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he comes from Garbanda?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of his reply to my question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how does he reconcile his reply that no second agricultural college is necessary in this province?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government has not said that it is not necessary to have a second agricultural college, but has said that it is doubtful, on account of limited scope for employment of trained candidates.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not their policy to encourage agricultural training on scientific lines?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Certainly, it is the policy of Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider then the necessity of revising the statement and starting agricultural colleges all over the Province?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Many financial implications are to be considered and therefore I am not in a position to commit anything off-hand.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Muslims will be more benefited through agricultural education and the peasantry more so than through University education?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government is not concerned with the benefit of any particular community.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether those who have passed from the Dacca Agricultural College have been employed, and if so how?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not come within the purview of this question.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether those who have passed from the Dacca Agricultural College have been provided with any independent profession?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not come within the purview of this question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that students could not be admitted in the Dacca College, what are the data besides this fact, which raises doubt in the mind of the present Government?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: The number of students who could not be admitted are not sufficient to start a college.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of students that were refused admission in the Dacca Agricultural College?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I have already said that I want notice.

Mr. MD. HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is afraid to start more agricultural colleges because they would be criticised by Mr. Bimal Sinha and others that Government is communal?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That question does not at all arise. Government cannot be afraid of anything.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the establishment of agricultural college in each Division of the Province will improve the situation in the Province?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that upon this matter since the agreement of 1936 there have been repeated demands by the people of Rajshahi for the establishment of an Agricultural College there and that deputations were sent to the Hon'ble Minister times without number?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that in view of the huge donation for the purpose of starting an agricultural college there the starting of an agricultural school can never satisfy the people of Rajshahi?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: I do not think so. The M. L. As and M. L. Cs. who saw the Hon'ble Minister in deputation were explained about the difficulties so far as the financial position was concerned and I think they will be satisfied if an agricultural school is started there.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, after the Government has entered into obligation by accepting this donation, that Government has no other alternative but to start a college there?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No, that is not a fact; Government have not accepted any obligation.

Mr. MD. HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is not willing to start more colleges because in that case it will not be possible for Government to import agricultural officers for the Agriculture Department from the Punjab and other places?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: No, that is not a fact.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the fact that there is no Agricultural College in North Bengal, Government's refusal to make use of this donation for the purpose of developing a full-fledged college in North Bengal has resulted in impeding the agricultural development of North Bengal as a whole?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has ascertained as to how many intending students would be available in North Bengal alone for the purpose of such a college for coming to their decision that such a college was not needed?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Government did not consider it necessary to ascertain those facts and figures. The whole thing is that the amount that could be available to the Government from this endowment will not be sufficient to meet the expenses of running a college.

Mr. MADAR BUX: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government is going to start a college at Dacca, and if it is a fact, what is the amount of public donation there?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: There is already a college. Government is not going to start a new college in Dacca.

Mr. MADAR BUX: What was the public donation there when the Government started an agricultural college there?

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: It is purely a Government college and the public were not asked to donate.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the general policy of the Government regarding encouragement of agricultural education in the province?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a very wide question.

Schemes for reclamation and settlement of reclaimed lands in Sundarban area.

***182. Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state—

- (i) how many schemes were there for reclamation and settlement of the reclaimed lands in the Sundarban area by the Government;
- (ii) what were the total expenses incurred by the Government in those schemes;
- (iii) whether the lands reclaimed in execution of those schemes are still in possession of the Government;
- (iv) what are the respective areas thereof and net income from each of them; and
- (v) what is the percentage of net profit on the outlay made by the Government?

(b) Does the Government contemplate to import or settle labourers and cultivators from other parts of Bengal in the Sundarban? If so, what are these classes of labourers and cultivators and from where?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlur Rahman): (a) (i) Reclamation and colonisation schemes in the Sundarbans covering 24 estates—17 in Bakarganj and 7 in 24-Parganas—have been completed.

(ii) The total capital outlay was Rs 28,69,000 of which Rs 24,44,300 was for Bakarganj, and Rs 4,24,700 for 24-Parganas.

(iii) The lands have been settled with *rayats*.

(iv) and (v) *Bakarganj*—

Area of land covered by the schemes, in acres—111,049.

Net income—Rs.2,47,300.

Percentage of net income on capital outlay—10·1.

24-Parganas—

Area of land covered by the schemes, in acres— 21,116.

Net income—Rs.68,900.

Percentage of net income on capital outlay—16·2.

(v) No, as there is no land available.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state exactly by what process these lands were colonised?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government acquired lands and made necessary irrigation and other improvements of the land and thereafter settled the lands with *raiyats*.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he intends by the term "irrigation facilities" that embankments have been constructed by the Government?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Not necessarily. Some embankments have been constructed by Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many embankments have been constructed to improve irrigation?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if lands were settled directly with *raiyats* or subsequently through the *lotdars*?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes; through the *lotdars*.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by his reply "the lands have been settled with *raiyats*."

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Through the *lotdars*.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the terms under which these lands were settled with *lotdars*?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government have taken into consideration any provision in the list of terms so that the *raiyats* may be saved or protected in case the *lotdars* would be doing any injustice?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government will consider the suggestion of the honourable member.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My question is when these lands were settled whether there was any such consideration?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Certainly there was such a consideration.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there exists in the existing list of terms any such provision for safeguarding the *raiyats*?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes; there are provisions.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the *raiyats* in Sundarban area are the worst affected *raiyats* in the whole of India?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government does not admit that. In some way there may be some oppression.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether lands will be available in Sundarban area for agriculturists of Mymensingh, Noakhali and other places which are thickly populated?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is there in answer (b)

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that repeated representations have been sent by the people or *raiyats* to Government for the redress of their grievances?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes; some representations have been sent by them

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Rowlands Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee reported that the conditions of these *raiyats* as a result of the oppression of the *laddars* are miserable?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I have already replied that there is some grievance and Government is considering how to deal with it

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: My question is whether the Rowlands Committee made such a remark?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government on this point?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Government have started action for requisitioning these lands and removing their grievances.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What does he exactly mean by requisitioning these lands?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: In connection with the acquisition of zemindary these lands will first be acquired by the Government.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Shall I take it that it is acquisition and not requisition?

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table.)

Pay of a reinstated process-server in Contai Criminal Courts.

68. Mr. SYED HABIBUL HUQ: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that one dismissed process-server of the Contai Criminal Courts was reinstated on appeal during the year 1946?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the process-server was granted his pay for the period of his wrongful dismissal?

(c) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) No. The appellate authority (Board of Revenue) did not find that this was a case of honourable acquittal entitling the process-server to pay during the period of dismissal.

Working hours, Provident Fund, Bonus, etc., for the Fire Service workers.

67. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was an agreement between the Government and the Fire Service Workers' Union after the last strike that the working hours of the Fire Service workers would be reduced?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how far the terms of the agreement have been materialised?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any Provident Fund for the members of the Fire Service?

(d) If the answer to (c) be in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is taking any action in introducing Provident Fund system for them?

(e) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have sanctioned 10 days' pay for all the Fire Service workers in recognition of their good works during the last Calcutta Killing?

(f) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether the money has been paid; and

(ii) if not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a) There was no agreement entered into with the Fire Service Workers' Union, at any time, but Government agreed, in April, 1946, to consider the demand of the members of the Auxiliary Fire Service and Calcutta Fire Brigade for reduction of hours of duty.

(b) The hours of duty have been reduced from 148 per week to 112 per week.

(c) and (e) No.

(d) Yes, rules for a Fire Brigade Provident Fund are being prepared.

(f) Does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when and through which agency the demand by the members of the Auxiliary Fire Service was made?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It was made by the workers themselves.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the demand?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: At the time of the strike?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: You have said there was no agreement but subsequently you have said the demand was made by the workers.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: They are always coming forward with demands. Not once but on several occasions they have made representations to Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: My question is what do you mean by "the demand" of the members of the Auxiliary Fire Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There was at first a demand which was made by the workers before they went on strike and that was made during Section 93 regime. When we assumed office, the Fire Service workers in Calcutta were already on strike. Then I made negotiations with them and came to certain terms and the Fire Service workers resumed their work.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to the last answer will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the terms of the settlement that was made?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the terms with me. I cannot give them off-hand.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to answer (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether 112 hours per week or 16 hours per day is too much for a man?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: When it is said so many hours per week it means that the workers are not actually on work, but they are on duty. What happens is this—members of the Fire Service are actually on duty for 8 hours to receive calls and then for 8 hours they are only on stand-by duty. If necessary they come and take the place of the members who are going out to receive calls and at best to meet any other call which may be received. 16 hours period is the total period of work because of the fact that they are to be in their quarters, they are to be on stand-by duty. They do not actually work all the time.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (a) that in April 1946 Government agreed to consider the demand of the members of the Auxiliary Fire Service and Calcutta Fire Brigade will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government did so on their own initiative or on receipt of any representation on behalf of the Fire Service workers and their Union?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been replied that the workers approached directly.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I wish to know whether Government received any representation and if so from whom? Several thousands of workers cannot approach directly in a crowd. Is that the position or any accredited representative of the workers or union made a representation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We had representatives of the workers but it is not possible for me to say whether they were accredited or not, but I certainly took them as representatives, and one of them was Secretary or an office-bearer of a union which is not recognised by Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for Government not recognising the union of the Fire Service workers which is a registered trade union under the Indian Trade Union Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government considers that the Fire Service personnel are members of an essential service and it is not in the interests of public service to recognise any union of an organisation or service which is considered essential.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the actual demands of the Fire Service personnel at the time of the agreement and how many of those demands are fulfilled and how many are not?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the details of all the demands. As far as I remember Government have fulfilled the promises made to the workers. One of the promises was with regard to the grant of dearness allowance equal to the rate sanctioned for other Government employees and Government paid a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs as arrears dearness allowance simply to implement the promise made by them.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any legal ban against the Fire Service workers and other employees of Public Utility Services forming trade unions and exercise their rights under the Trade Union Act of 1926?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: This question does not deal with the employees of the public utility services. I am talking of essential services of Government, just as Police force under Government. Government cannot take up the position that they will recognise unions formed by the Police and Fire Service workers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any legal ban against the Fire Service workers forming trade unions and exercising their rights under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of legal opinion.

Mr. BADIUZZAMAN MUHAMMAD ILIAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that even non-Matriculate junior Fire Service workers have been confirmed superseding the claims of Matriculate officers according to the sweet will of the Fire Service officials?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say if that is the actual position. There may be one or two instances because when we were having our permanent services and retrenching temporary hands, I issued instructions that the Communal Ratio Rules must be strictly enforced, namely, that the number of officers who were retained in permanent services must be on 50:50 basis. It may so happen that in giving effect to this policy some of the officers who might be retrenched might be senior to the matriculates.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,21,24,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General".

I propose to speak on the general policy of Government after the cut motions are disposed of.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I think the Hon'ble Minister can speak on the general policy just after moving his demand for grant.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: But, Sir, I would at the first instance hear the parties and note the points raised in the cut motions, and then I will lay bare the general policy of Government.

Mr. ANNADA PRASAD MANDAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to make provision for adequate grants to Calcutta Science College and Jadavpur Engineering College.

মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমার বড় প্রিয়তম স্বদেশ চন্দ্র শাস্ত্রী মহোদয় যে পুণ্য উপাধান করেছেন যে University Science Colleges কোন grant দেওয়া হয়নি কেন, তখন এই প্রশ্নের উত্তরে শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছিলেন যে পাইনাবী কলেজ তখন গভর্ণমেন্টকে বহুতাকা খরচ করতে হচ্ছে সেইজন্য বিজ্ঞান অনুষ্ঠানে কোন টাকা দেওয়া হয় নাই। আমার মনে হয় এই যে কারণ তিনি দেখিয়েছেন এটা মোটেই সমর্থনীয় নয়। একটা বিজ্ঞান কলেজ যে বিজ্ঞান কলেজ বাৎসরিক পকে দাখা বাৎসরিক প্রকল্পের বিষয়, যে বিজ্ঞান কলেজ হচ্ছে কলকাতা-কোলা, মেঘনাথ সাহা, পি. সি. বায় প্রভৃতি বড় বড় বৈজ্ঞানিক বার হয়েছেন সেই বিজ্ঞান কলেজকে এমনভাবে আর্থনিকভাবে ও স্টুডেন্ট কলা উচিত যাতে ভালভাবে বার্ষিক লোক এখানে বিজ্ঞান চর্চা করতে আসে। কিন্তু এমন বিজ্ঞান কলেজের জন্য অর্থ সাহায্য করতেও নীতিগতঃ সামর্থ্যকম অনুমতি দেওয়া। আমরা বুঝতে পারি না এই উদ্দেশ্যের মূলে কোন একম ডেলুজি বা সাম্প্রদায়িক মনোভাব আছে কিনা। এর মধ্যেও যদি কোন সাম্প্রদায়িক মনোভাব থাকে তাহলে তার চেয়ে পরিভ্রাণের বিষয় আর কি হতে পারে? এই বিজ্ঞান কলেজ বাৎসরিক যদি সাধারণ সম্প্রদায়ের লোক বেশী শিক্ত হয় আর এই মন করে যদি মস্তিষ্কনী অর্থ সাহায্য করতে সৃষ্টিত হন তাহলে এটা বাৎসরিক পরিভ্রাণের বিষয়। সাধারণ সম্প্রদায়ের লোক যদি বেশী শিক্ত হয় তাহলে তাদের দেখ দেওয়া যায় না, সাধারণটি সম্প্রদায়ের উচিত তাদের সাধারণ অনুপাত লোককে শিক্ষায় উৎসাহিত করা তা যদি না করেন, যদি নিজেরা অবশেষে করে পিতৃপন পড়ে থাকেন তার জন্য অপর সম্প্রদায়কে বা সাধারণ সমস্ত লোককে দেখ দেওয়া যায় না।

আর ভারতবর্ষ স্বাধীনতা প্রাপ্তকালে উপস্থিত হয়েছে তখন সকল দিক হতে আর তার উন্নত হওয়া উচিত, বিশেষতঃ বিজ্ঞানের উন্নতি সর্বোচ্চ প্রয়োজন। দেশের শিল্প, মানিজ্ঞান এসব সকল বিষয়ে বিজ্ঞানসম্মত পথে পরিচালিত হতে হবে তবেই দেশ সত্য সম্পন্ন হতে পারবে। তা যদি না হয় তাহলে বাংলা স্বাধীন হয়ে বলে লোক যে চাঁকান করতে, লাভ্যের মস্তিষ্কনী বাংলা স্বাধীন হয়ে বলে যে চাঁকান করেছেন সে স্বাধীনতার কোন মূল্যই থাকে না। তাই সমস্ত দেশকে বিজ্ঞানচর্চায় অনুপ্রাণিত করতে হবে, বৈজ্ঞানিক বিষয়ে আর্থনিকভাবে লোককে করতে হবে।

পাইনাবী শিক্ষার অনুমতিতে বিজ্ঞান কলেজের দানকে উপেক্ষা করা হয়েছে এটা কেউ সমর্থন করবেন না আমি আশা করি মস্তিষ্কনী এবিষয়ে পুনঃ বিবেচনা করবেন।

গত বৎসর Engineering Colleges ও লক টাকা sanction করা হয়েছিল কিন্তু ১৯৪৬ সালের মার্চ মাস পর্যন্ত মাত্র দেড় লক টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে আর বাকি টাকা দেওয়া হয় নাই। এবং পরের মার্চ মাস শেষ হতে যাচ্ছে এখনও যদি তাদের ঐ grant না দেওয়া হয় তাহলে বাৎসরিক দুঃখের বিষয়।

কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশনে ৪০ হাজার টাকা বেকারি গ্রান্ট দেওয়া হয় কিন্তু তাহাও পাঠে না, এটা অত্যন্ত পরিভ্রাণের বিষয়।

শিবপুর Engineering College-এর মত বেসরকারী Engineering College কলিকাতায় আর নাই। শিবপুর অনেক সময় স্থানভায়ে ছাত্ররা ভর্তি হতে পারেন না এবং সেখানে খরচাও অত্যধিক কিন্তু গভর্ণমেন্ট পক্ষ হতে এর সুব্যবস্থা কোন চেষ্টাই নাই। এর যদি সুব্যবস্থা না হয় তাহলে বাংলার কোন এক সম্প্রদায়ের ক্ষতি হবে না সকল সম্প্রদায়ের সমান ক্ষতি হবে। আজ দেশের লোক যে স্বাধীনতা স্বাধীনতা করে চাঁকান করতে সে স্বাধীনতা অল্প নাশতে হলেও Engineering শিক্ষার প্রসার করা, Engineering বিভাগে অধিক সাংখ্যিক অর্থ সাহায্য করে লোককে Engineering শিক্ষায় অনুপ্রাণিত করা উচিত। Engineering শিক্ষার ও বিজ্ঞানচর্চায় দেশকে এমন উন্নত করতে হবে কেন ভারতবর্ষ দাখা পৃথিবীর দৃষ্টান্ত হল হয়ে বীড়ায়।

আমি আশা করি শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এক বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট এ সবকে ভালরূপ অনুশ্রবণ করবেন এবং যাতে এই সমস্ত বিজ্ঞান প্রতিষ্ঠানের উন্নতি হবে তার জন্য সর্বশ্রুত্ব করে চেষ্টা করবেন।

Mr. PRAFULLA RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to frame a competent policy to distribute the special fund allotted for the education of the Scheduled Caste Community.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about failure of Government to provide special help to schools and colleges where the Scheduled Caste students get their education in large numbers from the point of view that the community is very backward in education and economic condition.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়, শিক্ষাখাতে সর্বু সমেত বোটি ৪ কোটি ২১ লক্ষ ২৪ হাজার টাকা ব্যয় হইবে বলিয়া ধাৰ্য্য করা হইয়াছে, এবং তদুপরে মাত্র ১০ লক্ষ টাকা তপশীলীদের জন্য ব্যয় হইবে দেখা গাইতেছে। কিন্তু তপশীলী জাতির শিক্ষার উন্নতির কোন পরিকল্পনা আমাদের গোচ্যবৃত্ত হয় নাই। এমন কি সরকারের নীতির ত্রুটিভাব পর্য্যন্ত ঘোষণা করা হয় নাই। আমার বক্তব্য বিষয় এই যে, তপশীলী জাতিগুলির মাঝে শিক্ষার অভাব কত গভীর ও ব্যাপক তাহা কাহাকেও বিনিবান অপেক্ষা রাখে না। সর্বু ব্যাপী অসামান্য ও অধিকা এই জাতিগুলির মজতায় ও উৎপ্রেতভাবে বিদ্যমান। মাননীয় বক্সী মহোদয় ও তাহার সহকর্মীরা শিক্ষা ব্যাপারে তপশীলী শ্রেণীর দুর্দশার কথা ভাল করিয়াই জানেন। কিন্তু তদু ও তাহাদের শাসনের ফলে আমাদের ভিতর শিক্ষার কতটুকু প্রসার হইয়াছে তাহাও ওয়াকিবহাল ব্যক্তি নাই জানেন। এই অবস্থায় তপশীলী শ্রেণীর জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট অর্থ সুনিয়ন্ত্রিত ও উপযুক্তভাবে ব্যয় হইতেছে কি না, তাহার আলোচনা একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

আমাদের জন্য যে পবিত্র অর্থ সংরক্ষিত বহিমাতে তাহা প্রয়োজনবশত তুলনায় সমুদ্রে বারিধিশব্দ। আর এই অর্থও উপযুক্ত ক্ষেত্রে ও প্রয়োজনীয়ভাবে ব্যয় হইতেছে কিনা এ সম্বন্ধে আমরা যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে। উচ্চ শিক্ষিতের জনসংখ্যা আমাদের মধ্যে কত জন তাহা হাতে গননা করা চলে। এ ফলে দেশের শাসনকার্যে ও অন্যান্য ব্যাপারে আমরা আমাদের কার্যস্থান ইচ্ছা থাকা সত্ত্বেও গ্রহণ করিতে পারিতেছি না। চাকুরী ক্ষেত্রে উপযুক্ত লোকের অভাব এই কথা আমরা অস্বপ্ন ভগিতে পাই। কিন্তু আমাদের অর্থ নৈতিক দোষে বোঝা ফলে বর্তমান ব্যবস্থার উচ্চ শিক্ষা আমাদের মধ্যে লতকরা ১১২ জনও গ্রহণ করিতে পারেন না। বক্সী মহাশয় এই সম্বন্ধে কতখানি কি কবিয়াছেন তাহা দয়া করিয়া জানাইবেন কি ?

Matric পাসের পর তপশীলী শ্রেণীর ছাত্রদের একটা অতি সামান্য অংশ Arts পড়ার জন্য stipend পায়। এবং তাহার পরিমাণ মাত্র মাসিক ৮৭ টাকা। এই সামান্য টাকা দিয়া বর্তমান অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতিতে তাহাদের কতটুকু সাহায্য হয় তাহা বক্সী মহোদয় ভাবিয়া দেখিয়াছেন কি ? এই সামান্য টাকা দিয়া তাহাদের লিটারেচারে প্রতি উপহাস করা চাড়া আর কি বলা গাইতে পারে ? আর, যাহা তাহা পায়, তাহাও নিয়মিতভাবে পায় না। যেখানে মুসলমান ছাত্রদের উচ্চ শিক্ষার জন্য অল্প অর্থ ব্যয় হইতেছে সেখানে তপশীলীদের প্রতি অবিচারের নিম্না কবিরার ভাষা শুনিলে পাওয়া যায় না। কারণ তপশীলীদের প্রয়োজন সকলের চেয়ে বেশী। B. A. ও M. A. classএর ছাত্রদের ভাতাও এর চাইতে দৌলবেতজ্ঞ নয়। M. A. classএর ছাত্রদের জন্য যে stipend দেওয়া হয় তাহা অতি সামান্য। কলিকাতায় বা ঢাকায় থাকিবা এই সামান্য টাকায় M. A. পড়ার পর মুসলমান ছাত্রদের মধ্যে কয় জন করিতে পারে ? আইন পড়ার জন্য সাহায্যের কোন ব্যবস্থা সরকার আমাদের জন্য করিতে পারেন নাই। এক কথায় বলিতে গেলে আমাদের শিক্ষার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টের প্রচেষ্টা পড়ার হতাশাব্যঞ্জক। আরবা মুসলিম লীগের ছোট বড় সকল নেতার মুখেই আমাদের প্রতি দ্রবের কথা ভগিতে পাই। কিন্তু কার্যতঃ কিছুই সেবিতে পাই না। বর্তমানে আমাদের জন্য যে টাকা সংরক্ষিত হইয়াছে তাহার একটা বিশিষ্ট অংশ পৃথক করিয়া রাধিয়া বীনলীর বক্সী মহোদয় M. A. ও Law পড়ার জন্য এমনভাবে stipend দিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন যাতে উক্ত পড়াগুলির সমস্ত ব্যয় এই stipendএর টাকার সম্মান হয়। এই ব্যবস্থা করিতে না পাবিলে আমাদের মধ্যে উচ্চ শিক্ষার প্রসার কতদিনে হইবে ভাবা বলা কঠিন এবং ইহার ফলে, রাজনৈতিক, অর্থনৈতিক ও অন্যান্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যাপারে আমাদের বৈশিষ্ট্য চিরন্তনে লোপ পাইবে। আমি আশা করি মাননীয় বক্সী মহোদয় এই সমস্ত বিষয় সর্ববুদ্ধিসিদ্ধকারে বিবেচনা করিয়া উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিবেন। ইহা ছাড়া, যে সমস্ত তুল-কলমে অধিক সংখ্যার তপশীলী ছাত্ররা পড়াশুনা করে, তাহাদের অধিকতর

অর্থ সাহায্য করা একান্ত আবশ্যিক; কারণ ইহার কোন হাতেরা বেতন ও অন্যান্য বিষয়ে তুল কন্দেজ হইতে নানা সুবিধা পাইবে এবং নিম্ন বানিতে থাকিয়া তাহারা অল্প ব্যয়ে বাহাতে পড়াশুনা করিতে সক্ষম হই তাহাবও ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন। আরি আশা করি আমাদের সকল বিষয় বিবেচনা করিয়া মাননীয় বঙ্গী মহোদয় আমার ছাঁচিই প্রত্যাব গ্রহণ করিবেন।

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH BARKAR: Sir, I rise to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37--Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to adopt adequate measure for the spreading of education amongst the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes of Bengal form a great section of the population of the Province being about one-fifth in strength distributed in the different districts. Generally they are agriculturists by profession and are the backbone of the society. They also represent the labour class of the Province and are backward in all respects and especially in the matter of education. It is an admitted fact that illiterate mass is a standing block to the progress of any land—far to speak of independence.

Sir, I shall only deal with the education of Scheduled Castes community of Bengal and the measures taken by the Government in this direction. It is incumbent upon any Government to shoulder the responsibility of educating its people. The Scheduled Castes people are proverbially poor and over and above they have been hard hit on account of the economic distress and abnormal situation of the province. As such they can hardly afford to bear the expenses of their children's education. Poverty has brought them innumerable miseries in their lives and unless they can get their children properly educated there is no end of it.

Sir, it is only fit and proper that the backward minority community should get weightage. It was in the fitness of things that a special fund of Rs. 5 lakhs was created for the education of the Scheduled Castes so far back as in the year 1938-39. But as the then Government had no comprehensive scheme before them, it took the next several years to exhaust the fund. What was done during all those years was distribution of doles to institutions and persons, in other words, it was in most cases favouritism and nepotism. Things have not improved at the hands of the present Ministry for no ameliorative measures have yet been sponsored for the proper use of the Scheduled Castes Education Fund.

Sir, in the present budget an additional sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has no doubt been provided for the education of Scheduled Castes, thus making altogether a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs available for the education of Scheduled Castes. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget was perhaps proud enough to mention it in his statement but there is a gulf of difference between budgeting an amount and giving effect to the proposal in the budget. Sir, we do not doubt that the money will be spent, but what I intend to stress upon is that there must be some ameliorative scheme for the use of the fund and that the fund should be increased by another 5 lakhs for capital expenditure for opening new schools and colleges.

Sir, I shall now attempt to show how the Government have failed in adopting adequate measure for the spreading of education amongst the Scheduled Castes in spite of their providing a certain sum in the budget.

Generally, Sir, grants-in-aid to Scheduled Castes institutions, stipends and scholarships to Scheduled Castes students, grants to Scheduled Castes Hostels and Furniture and Library grants are the main features of the Scheduled Castes Education Fund. But the way in which money has been distributed under these sub-heads shows that there is no well-thought-out scheme before the authorities. I don't deny, Sir, that Scheduled Castes people have derived any benefit but there has been more waste than proper use of the money of this fund, or rather distribution of favours and nepotism. There are yet a large number of Scheduled Castes institutions all over the province,

both Middle English and High English, recognised. But they have not been favoured with any grant from this fund. In my own district, Sir, there are as many as six recognised High English Schools and about ten M. E. schools organised and managed by and intended for the Scheduled Castes. But in spite of repeated prayers they have not been able to get any grants from this fund. I was told the other day by a promoter of a Scheduled Castes institution that he was asked by the authorities to come through certain political organisation if he intends to secure a grant from the Scheduled Castes fund. Again institutions of the same standard and nature are not getting equal and uniform grants. This is unwise and discouraging.

Next I propose to turn to stipends and scholarships. Here also, Sir, the same story repeats. Really poor and meritorious students are not getting the benefit. This is being exploited by the opportunists. The same thing happens in cases of grants for furniture and library. Of all the Scheduled Castes hostel affairs have attracted our attention most. Besides grants to Scheduled Castes hostels in the mufassil, Government are maintaining several hostels for Scheduled Castes in this city. Here, Sir, a very amusing thing is going on. Whenever any Scheduled Caste student seeks admission in the hostels some interrogatories are put to him, namely:—Are you a member of the Scheduled Castes Federation? Do you belong to Faridpur or Barisal? And if the answer be in the affirmative, admission is allowed; otherwise the authorities hold out the "No admission" plate to the student seeking admission. It seems that the Scheduled Castes Education Fund is a concern of the "Mandal-Baron & Co.". If that be so, we have nothing to say. If not, Sir, I would most earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department to see to it and administer the Scheduled Castes Education Fund properly, impartially and amelioratively. I would suggest that uniform grants should be awarded to schools of same standard and to all Scheduled Castes schools irrespective of their colour; stipends should be awarded to all poor and meritorious students, boys and girls; Scheduled Castes hostels should be maintained at every subdivisional headquarters; hostel grants should be awarded to all Scheduled Caste boardings attached to any school or college; special stipends should be awarded to all girl students; stipends for scientific and vocational education; special stipends for overseas studies should be created; Scheduled Castes hostels should be opened for admission to all Scheduled Caste students irrespective of the community and territory to which they belong; besides the Special Officer, Special Inspectors should be appointed for each division; a special fund for opening new schools and colleges be created; the Scheduled Caste education committee should be reshuffled and reconstituted with representatives from all sections of Scheduled Castes irrespective of their party and colour.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about (a) the inadequacy of the grant under the head "Scheduled Caste Education Fund" and the manner of administering the fund, (b) the necessity of creating another Education Fund for the economically backward community of Hindus not included in the Scheduled Castes, and (c) the necessity of increasing the amount under the head "Buddhist Education Fund" and of increasing the amount under "Adult Education".

I also move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about (a) the failure of the Government to introduce Free Compulsory Primary Education in the Province, (b) inadequacy of the grant under the sub-head "Grant to local bodies for Primary Education",

(c) the necessity of increasing the pay of Primary School teachers, (d) the necessity of making adequate provision for repair and construction of Primary School buildings, (e) the necessity of providing those schools with furniture and books, (f) the necessity of establishing larger number of training schools for training of Primary School teachers, (g) the policy of the Government in the matter of administration and constitution of School Boards in not giving due importance to the representation of the minorities in the different areas in those School Boards, (h) the policy of the Government in the matter of selection of the Primary School Books, (i) the policy of the Government in imparting religious instructions in the primary schools, (j) the necessity of establishing larger number of primary schools in the areas inhabited by the backward communities, and (k) the necessity of establishing ideal primary schools both for boys and girls in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall first of all deal with the condition of primary school teachers and the condition of primary schools in this Province. You are aware, Sir, that during the war and even now primary education has altogether come to a dead stop in the rural areas. The schools have got no buildings, no furniture, no tables, no chairs. Government did not think it necessary to provide money for the construction or repair of the buildings.

Then, Sir, the most important thing is the condition of primary school teachers. Government has decided to increase the rates of pay of primary school teachers, but the proposed rates of pay of Rs. 30.8, Rs. 24.8 and Rs. 20.8 inclusive of dearness allowance instead of Rs. 30, Rs. 24 and Rs. 17 as previously contemplated are far below not only the demands of the teachers, namely, Rs. 65 and Rs. 45 for trained and untrained teachers respectively but fall short of what may be reasonably considered as living wages in these hard days when the cost of living has increased 300 per cent. and when rice sells at Rs. 25 to Rs. 27 in the rural areas of Bengal. Unless the condition of the primary school teachers is improved, I am afraid, Sir, primary education will come to a dead stop. Even at 12 or 1 p.m. you will find that the teachers have not turned up, and the students are quarrelling among themselves. They do not take care of themselves. The teachers come generally at 4 p.m., stay there for an hour or so and then go away. This is how primary education is going on in the rural areas of Bengal. These teachers have threatened to go on strike. Even today the Secretary of the Teachers' Association has issued a statement that the decision of the teachers has not altered even on account of the proposed rates of pay. I submit, Sir, that the rates which are proposed fall far below the demand of the teachers. They should get at least Rs. 50, per month. Unless they get Rs. 50, I am sure the condition of primary schools will not improve.

Then, Sir, what is most important is the constitution of School Boards. It is rather a painful thing for us, but it is our duty to refer to the constitution of School Boards. It is rather another institution for propagating the purpose of a particular political organisation. You will not find any expert in the School Board. The School Board deals with the education of young boys. Then there is no representative of the minority communities in the School Boards. I think the Hon'ble Minister for Education will consider that at least two members of the legislature belonging to the minority communities should be represented in the School Boards, because they are the people who are in touch with the areas and able to tell what are the needs and requirements of the primary schools.

I will speak a few words in regard to primary text-books. In our school days the primary school text-books were better than they are now and gave morals; such as *Prathambhag* and *Ditubhag*; such moral teachings are not to be found in the present day primary text-books. What is the reason. I would say that British Government in the past have not paid any attention to eradicate social evils that prevail in the country. I feel that the caste-system of the Hindus is one of the worst evils of the country. It has done

as much harm as the British Imperialism. The British Imperialism is going away, but I am afraid, the caste system is not. An attempt should be made to abolish the caste system, and the primary school books should contain writings deprecating the caste system, so that young boys may feel that it is not desirable to have such a system. Unless by this, and such other means, the caste system is abolished the Hindu society is bound to perish. It is the duty of the Government to try to abolish the caste system. The British have not tried to abolish the evil.

Then the primary school text-books should contain writings that promote the restoration of good feelings between Hindus and Muslims.

Now I come to the administration of the Scheduled Caste Education Fund. I oppose the construction of hostel for Scheduled Caste at the expense of Government. There should be one hostel for all communities of the Hindus. I am waiting for the day when there will be one hostel both for Hindus and Muslims, but I do not know whether it will happen in my life-time. There should be no money set apart for such sectarian works. My friend, Mr. Sarkar, has spoken with regard to the Scheduled Caste Education Fund. I say that Government should not spend money for the construction of hostel for Scheduled Castes. If caste-Hindu boys object to the living of Scheduled Caste boys in the same hostel, they should be driven out of the hostel.

The Government should also see that there should be more primary school teachers and that no seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes.

I should like to say a few words with regard to female education.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: A few words more. We have got Scheduled Caste Education Fund, Adult Education Fund, but we have not got education fund for the females. Here in a house of 250 members, I see only three or four or five ladies. I am certain a day will come when the number of women and the number of men in this House should be equal. I feel that the female education is a greater necessity than the education of boys. Unless there is female education the condition of our country will not improve. I think there should be a separate fund for female education.

Then I find an allotment of Rs. 1,000 for Scheduled Caste Parliamentary Secretaries. I think the only purpose for such an allotment is to placate the Scheduled Caste members of this legislature and nothing more.

With these few words I commend my cut motions for the acceptance of the House.

MR. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the Provincial Text-Book Committee and its policy.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the sixteen cases of supersession on communal and other unfair grounds in the Presidency College, Calcutta.

In moving the cut motions I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the Provincial Text Book Committee is a purely nominated body, the function of which is to advise the Director of Public Instruction in the matter of selecting text-books for primary schools, maktabas and madrasahs. Sir, as at present constituted, this body is composed of a few nominated persons and a few officials *ex-officio*. But, Sir, the working of this body has been sufficient to prove that the body cannot come out of communal lines in the selection of text-books and recommend books on communal lines. It is, Sir, a matter worth taking note of that though it is a recommendatory body, it is assuming for itself

powers which even the D. P. I. cannot dispute. I refer to a case which happened at the time when Mr. A. K. Chanda was the Director of Public Instruction. The Text Book Committee suggested that there should be no mythological stories in the text books. This proposal which was mooted by the Muslim members was stoutly opposed by the Christian Missionary representative, and even by Mr. Chanda (Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLA CHOWDHURY: No, no).—Let the Muslim League Secretary who is present here and whose bounden duty it is to deny, prove if it is not a fact, and in spite of Mr. Chanda and the Christian Missionary's opposition this proposal was supported by this Government and Government turned down the D. P. I.'s recommendation. That is the composition and policy of the Text Book Committee. It has completely failed to discharge the duties entrusted to it. It has selected text books which have falsified history, degraded language and distorted young minds for whom it prescribes books. I could have cited many instances and given you any number of examples of these allegations which I am now making, but for the present I will mention only a few. I refer to the book by Maulvi Mubarak Ali. The Book is *Maktab-Madrassah Sahitya, Pratham Bhag*. I quote a line from the book which is outrageous to the sentiment of non-Muslims: “শাক কোরাণের বন্দী একমাত্র সত্য ধর্ম।” We do not dispute that Quoran might be the book of a true religion according to some, but it is after all outrageous to the sentiments of non-Muslims to force them to read that the religion of the Quran is the only true religion for all. Then, Sir, I would give you an example how language is distorted and culture degraded. I refer to the book *Prabando Mala* by Khan Bahadur Kazi Imdadul Huq. I quote one sentence: “প্রথম নোকিয়া মূর্খে তুলিবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাহাদের তরবারীর আঘাতে যেহাযানের ছিন্ন মস্তক দস্তুরধানে গড়াগড়ী ঘাইতে লাগিল।” One wonder of it is that its Urdu words—not supposed to be understandable by the pupil for whom it is prescribed, have been translated into Bengali by the author within the book itself.

Then, Sir, I would refer only to another book and that is the book by Maulvi Abdul Sattar on the History of India ভারতবর্ষের ইতিহাস. There he says that Aurangzeb was a very pious Emperor and describes what he did for his people. The book says that he abolished all sorts of taxes and levied only one tax, *Jakat* on his Muslim subjects and one tax called *Jizia* on the non-Muslim subjects and *Jizia* was a fair and equitable tax. How far this is a correct history I leave it to the members to judge!

Sir, in this way the Text Book Committee recommends books which by no stretch of imagination give fair or honest interpretation of history or fair and accurate representation of language and this is being done in a period when primary schools are being fast replaced by *Muktabs*. I have it from a question answered on the floor of the House that in 1940, 70,000 and odd Hindu students were being forced to read in *Muktabs* and were forced to undergo training not only in religious philosophy but also, at least in the one-teacher schools in Muslim rituals, there being no provision for alternative arrangement in religious instruction for the other community. That, Sir, is the background in which these text books are being prescribed and being forced on the minds of young men who are preparing for the independence of Bengal.

Sir, my time is very short. I turn to the subject-matter of my other cut motion. The subject-matter of my other cut motion is the large number of cases of supersession and unfair discrimination that have taken place in the Presidency College—my own college—on unfair and communal grounds. Sir, it is well-known that there are three important Government colleges in Bengal—Presidency, Chittagong and Rajshahi. Though not a prescribed rule, it was the convention followed for ages that one of the Principals of these colleges would be a Hindu and the other two might be non-Hindus—might be Muslims, Christians, Europeans or anything like that. But, Sir, at present all the three posts of Principal belong to the Muslim community.

Then, Sir this is reflected also in the composition of the staff and the appointments and supersessions recently made. I refer particularly to the changes that have recently taken place in the English Department. After the retirement of Dr. Srikumar Banerji, Professor S. N. Maitra, whose position on the English staff was next to Dr. Banerji in age, eminence and length of service, was put in his place, but some time after Professor Maitra had to go and yield place to Mr. Ahmed Ali who, by the way, is a non-Bengalee and Mr. Ahmed Ali was declared the Head of the Department, in spite of the fact that the Governing Body and the Principal unanimously protested against this unfair intervention by the Government and said that it is not the duty of the Government but it is entirely in the hands of the Principal and the Governing Body to declare who should be the Head of the Department. Then, Sir, this Mr. Ahmed Ali, though a non-Bengalee, has not been compelled to pass the test in Bengali, though I may mention that even as late as 1934 a European member of the I. E. S. was dismissed on the ground that he failed to pass the test for Bengali. In this way it goes on also in the History Department. Mr. B. C. Mukherji who had been officiating in place of Dr. Rahman who had been placed on deputation to the Secretariat was replaced by Dr. A. W. Mahmud. On Dr. Rahman coming back it was not Mr. Mahmud who went out but Professor S. C. Mazumdar, one of the most popular teachers of the college with a record of 25 years of service.

In this way I can mention any number of cases, but the time at my disposal is very short and I would draw the attention of the House to another grievous wrong done to the Presidency College. After the riot Government has been pleased to provide conveyance for the Muslim staff and students but not for the non-Muslim staff and students. Recently, Sir, I understand and I say on unimpeachable authority that arrangements have been made to convey Hindu girl students and Muslim boy students in the same bus—in the same compartment—to the Presidency College, though no arrangement has been made for the other Hindu staff and students. This is, Sir, to say the least, monstrous and atrocious and unthinkable for any person in his senses. (Cries of "shame" "shame" from the Opposition benches.) That is the latest wrong done to the Presidency College. I do not, Sir, mention how a Muslim Hostel is proposed to be constructed within the precincts of the Presidency College and so on and so forth. But I say this that if you want religious education, you have your Koran Schools and Madrassahs, if you want religious-cum-secular education, then you have your Madrassah, Muktab and Islamic Colleges. Then what is your moral right to encroach upon the ordinary facilities for secular education provided not entirely by the Government,—for, after all, even the Presidency College, you must remember, was started as the Hindu College by the grants of Dr. Dwarkanath Tagore and others. What right have you to curtail the general facilities for secular education in this way and impose communalism on a fair institution with a great tradition? (Applause.)

Mr. MOHINI MOHAN BURMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about want of policy and scheme regarding the expenditure of the Scheduled Castes Education Fund.

Sir, in rising to speak a few words about my cut motion I am very much shocked when the picture of the pitiable condition of the Scheduled Caste people flashes in my mind. I cannot even for a moment forget the extent of their appalling poverty. Sir, imagine the condition—how colossal their ignorance is, when even 2 per cent. of these people do not know how to read and write. Considering only this fact any Government worth the name cannot but spend any amount for raising these people from such a lamentable condition.

Sir, the other day in reply to the general discussion of the budget, the Hon'ble Finance Minister stressed very much emphasis upon the additional provision of 5 lakhs for the current year and compared that figure with that of the Muslim Education Fund on population basis, alleging that the Scheduled Castes population form one-fourth of the Muslim population in Bengal. But I regret to say that the idea of the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the Scheduled Castes population is absolutely wrong. Sir, their number is 12,700,000 and they form more than one-fifth of the total population of the province and their necessity of education is far greater than that of any other people of Bengal. The provision is undoubtedly very meagre and quite inadequate to meet the crying needs in view of their utter backwardness in education.

Sir, however petty the amount might be it is welcome no doubt, but I may point out in this connection that the fund should be spent with greater caution and care and with a greater sense of responsibility by those who are placed in charge of the scheme inasmuch as reports are often received regarding their wastage and inefficient spending.

Sir, I am really pained or rather surprised to find that instead of making the amount of additional 5 lakhs a recurring one what led the Hon'ble Finance Minister to make this provision for the current year only. Is it for the political end or for the consideration of certain Scheduled Castes members joining the Treasury Benches? If the Hon'ble Finance Minister feels more for his political gain, which I apprehend, than for their real uplift, I think it would undoubtedly be a great blunder on his part. Sir, I regret to say that the present Ministry has not in the least paid any attention to the Scheduled Caste education. One fact I like to point out is that we very often receive complaints that the students do not get their stipends in time not to speak of months but even after a year and so on account of non-payment of tuition fees their names are struck off and they are drifted to the darkness of ignorance. The very purpose is thereby defeated and on one hand the money becomes lapsed and remains unspent and being compelled to leave the school the students become burden of the society on the other hand.

Sir, there is a provision for overseas stipends for a certain number of Scheduled Caste students. But whenever anybody applies for the same it is a general cry that the petitions are rejected on the frivolous ground of inefficiency and the allotted amount remains unspent in this respect too.

At present the League Ministry is very much busy or rather particular about the Moslem education only neglecting the legitimate claims or interests of others. Sir, we want to know how long will you neglect? I request the present Ministry not to indulge in this criminal neglect any more. I ask them to come forward with a clean hand and pious wish to educate the dumb millions who are actually groping in the darkness of ignorance.

Sir, hostel accommodation has become one of the great problems, now-a-days, for a very large number of students; and for want of cheap and suitable lodging many students, in these hard days, have to put a stop to their learning. So the Government should open a few Scheduled Caste hostels at an early date.

Sir, in order to ameliorate the condition of the Scheduled Caste people I like to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of Education to my following suggestions:—

- (1) To make the Scheduled Caste fund a recurring one.
- (2) To constitute a strong Scheduled Castes committee consisting of M.L.As. and M.L.Cs.
- (3) To construct a well-thought-out scheme for the disbursement of the fund by the said committee.

- (4) To follow strictly the resolutions passed by the said committee.
- (5) To distribute a large number of stipends among the Scheduled Castes.
- (6) To open Scheduled Caste hostels in Calcutta as well as in mufassal areas.
- (7) To introduce immediately free and compulsory primary education all over the Province. And lastly,
- (8) In order to drive away illiteracy the Cabinet should at once introduce adult education among the Scheduled Caste people.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about the apathy of the Government to provide facilities for survey education of the boys of West Bengal after removal of the survey school from Bankura.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি একটি বিষয়ে মন্ত্রিসভার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করার জন্য এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপন করছি। কুমিল্লা জেলায় 'ময়নামতি' হতে survey schoolটি গত যুদ্ধের সময় যখন জাপানের আক্রমণের ভয়ে বাঁকুড়ায় স্থাপন করা হয়, তারপর থেকে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের বহু ছাত্র এই স্কুলে শিক্ষালাভ করতে থাকে, ছাত্রসংখ্যা ৪০ থেকে বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে এক শতের উপর হয়। এখানে survey school বেশ ভালভাবেই চলেছিল কারণ বাঁকুড়ায় জলহাওয়া ভাল: পাহাড় নিকটেই ও colliery আছে, সেজন্য পাহাড় ও Mining survey শিক্ষারও সুবিধা হচ্ছিল। তাই ক্রমশ: পশ্চিম বঙ্গের বহু ছাত্র এই স্কুলের দিকে আকৃষ্ট হয়েছিল। তারপর যুদ্ধের গতি যখন পরিবর্তন হয়ে গেল তখন পশ্চিম বঙ্গের বহু লোকের বহু আবেদনে কর্ণপাত না করে শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এই survey schoolটি ময়নামতিতে তুলে নিয়ে গেলেন। যদিও তখন ময়নামতিতে স্কুলের ঘর বাড়ী নষ্ট হয়ে গিয়েছিল এবং পশ্চিম বঙ্গে অনেক পনিত্যক্ত Aerodromeএ এই survey স্কুল স্থাপন করার সুবিধা ছিল। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের জনসাধারণ বাঁকুড়া হতে শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি এই দিকে আকর্ষণ করেছিলেন, কিন্তু তিনি তাতে কর্ণপাত করেন নাই।

সভাপতি মহাশয়, পূর্বে বঙ্গের বহু স্থানে, বিশেষত: কুমিল্লা, নোয়াখালী জেলায় যেকোন পাড়াহাঙ্গামা, বেপারওয়া বুন জমির চলেছে তাতে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ছাত্রদের মেলেমেলে সেখানে সেখানে প্রাণ হাতে করে শিক্ষালাভ করতে যাওয়া অনস্বয়। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের প্রেসিডেন্সী, বর্তমান বিভাগে কোন survey school নাই। বাঁকুড়া হতে যখন school তুলে দেওয়া হল তখন যেন শিক্ষা বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় পশ্চিম বঙ্গের যে কোন জেলায় survey শিক্ষার জন্য একটি school অবিলম্বে স্থাপন করেন এজন্য আমি অনুরোধ করছি।

এই survey শিক্ষা বর্তমানে এই দেশের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় হয়ে পড়বে কারণ সরকারের ন্যায্য রোপের একটি পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে; যদি ন্যায্য রোপ করা হয়, তাহলে জরিপ কার্যের জন্য বহু সহস্র আমিরের প্রয়োজন হবে। কিন্তু বাংলাদেশে যদি যুদ্ধ পূর্বে বঙ্গে একটি মাত্র survey school থাকে যেখানে বর্তমানে যাওয়া শ্রম অনস্বয়, তাহলে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের এতগুলি জেলায় ছাত্রগণ survey শিক্ষার সুযোগে বঞ্চিত হবে এবং জলুর ভবিষ্যতে জরিপ কার্যের জন্য যখন বহু সহস্র আমিরের প্রয়োজন হবে তখন গভর্ণমেন্টই বা সে প্রয়োজন মিটিবে কিরকমে? এইজন্য আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করছি ঠীকা অবিলম্বে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের কোন ন্যায্যকর স্থানে একটি survey school স্থাপন করার ব্যবস্থা করুন যাতে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ছাত্ররা হিন্দু-মুসলমান নিষ্পেষে সেখানে প্রবেশ করে survey শিক্ষা লাভ করতে পারে। একদা একটি বিদ্যালয় না থাকলে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ছাত্ররা একটি কাছাকাড়ী ও অর্থকরী বিদ্যালয় হতে বঞ্চিত হবে।

আমাদের মন্ত্রিসভা প্রায়ই সাম্প্রদায়িক ভেদবৃদ্ধি ঘাটা পরিচালিত হয়ে থাকেন। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ছাত্রদের এইভাবে survey শিক্ষালাভ হতে বঞ্চিত করা সেই সাম্প্রদায়িক বনোবৃদ্ধির আর একটি নিদর্শন কিনা কে জানে?

আমি পশ্চিম বঙ্গের এতগুলি জেলার ন্যায় দাবীর কথা স্মরণ করিয়ে শিক্ষা-বহী বহানবকে পুনরায় বহাতি তিনি যেন এই দাবী উপেক্ষা না করেন। গত বাজেট অধিবেশনকালে শিক্ষা-বহী বহানব আশুাস দিয়েছিলেন যে survey school বীকুড়া হতে তুলে নিয়ে গেলেনও তিনি পশ্চিম বঙ্গের কোন স্থানে একটি temporary survey school এর ব্যবস্থা করবেন, কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত সেজন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই।

আজ বাঙ্গালদেশের রাজস্বের কোন কোন টাকা সাম্প্রতিক খাতে ব্যয় করা হচ্ছে, সাম্প্রতিকতার উৎসাহেও প্রসার জন্য নতুন কলেজ, নতুন শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপন করা হচ্ছে, মুসলী education এর জন্য ১০ লক্ষ টাকা পৃথক করে রাখা হয়েছে। একটি মুসলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জন্য ২ হাজার একর জমি সংগ্রহ করা হচ্ছে, আর পশ্চিম বঙ্গের একটি survey এর জন্য সাবান্য অর্থের ব্যয়াদ করতে বহিন্তরী কার্পণ্য প্রকাশ করছেন ইহা অত্যন্ত আপশোষের কথা।

ঢাকার Medical College স্থাপন করা হচ্ছে, Engineering College স্থাপন করা হচ্ছে, তাতে আমবা আপত্তি করি না। কিন্তু সাম্প্রতিকতার কুলপুৰোহিত বহী বঙালীর “বহন” হতে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের survey শিক্ষার জন্য কি বিশুদ্ধ “পানি”ও বহিত হবে না? পশ্চিম বঙ্গ প্রধানতঃ সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের বাসভূমি হলেও বহী বহানবের স্মরণ রাখা উচিত যে রাজস্ব নিয়ে তাঁরা তিনিমিনি খেলছেন সে রাজস্ব বাংলায় হিন্দু-মুসলমান উভয়ের বৃদ্ধের বড় জনককা টাকা। সে টাকার উপর হিন্দু-মুসলমান সকলের সমান অধিকার আছে।

আমি জনসাধারণের পক্ষ হতে এই কথা বলতে চাই যে তাঁরা শিক্ষা বিভাগেও যে দুরীতির অনুসরণ করে চলছেন তাতে তাঁরা নিজেদের সম্প্রদায়েরও সঙ্গী নাশ করছেন এবং সকল দেশবাসীরও কলিত করছেন।

আমি পুনরায় শিক্ষা-বহী বহানবকে অনুবোধ করছি যে তিনি পশ্চিম বঙ্গের যে কোন জেলায় একটি survey school স্থাপন করুন। আমি এই কথা বলে আমার চাইটি পূরণ সম্ভব করছি।

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head “37—Education—General” be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to secularise all education financed or subsidised by grants out of State Revenues.

Sir, it is a common place thing to say that every State is expected to have a general Education policy of its own in consonance with the welfare of the citizens as a whole. But, Sir, Bengal I think provides a case at variance with that common place thing. The Government has not yet declared in clear and definite terms the Education policy of its own aimed at the development of the Province and the people, in order to equip the personnel of our Province for the big tasks that lie ahead. Instead, Sir, what do we see today? The surreptitious method which this Government guided by the Muslim League Party has been following is to convert all educational institutions into communal, denominational and non-secular institutions. What is needed in the present day world is most definitely secular and scientific education for the advancement of any people or any country. But we see the reverse process going on here. I would not have pointed out this fact if it were not for the fact that there is not only a tendency to give opportunities and grants to denominational, communal and religious education but also a tendency to destroy the cultural and religious education of all other communities who happen to be in a minority and do not happen to have the machinery of the State in their control. We have not got in our possession the latest Quinquennial reports on Education of this Province, but from figures culled as early as 1938-39 some revealing facts will come out. If you examine the quinquennial reports on Education of that period, you will find that for all educational facilities of the minority community in this Province the total amount spent used to be only Rs. 1,45,746. Out of that amount again, Sir, Government contributed only Rs. 74,204, and the rest were financed by private contributions.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Under what particular head?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am talking about the *Tols* which are meant to impart religious education to the minority community of this Province. Sir, in total only Rs. 1,45,746 used to be spent for religious education of the Hindus of Bengal including that of the Scheduled Castes for which there is no dearth of crocodile tears in the eyes of the Muslim League Ministry. Government, as I said, paid not more than Rs. 74,204 only. As against that if you analyse the figures spent for the purpose of Muslim Education what would it come to. Unbelievable as it may seem at the first sight, but the colossal figure stands at Rs. 19,53,710 as against, imagine, only Rs. 1,45,746. Be it noted that the entire money spent for the communal education of the Muslims is contributed out of the public funds. Sir, this is a very revealing state of affairs and the figures relate to those prevailing in 1938-39. In the course of this nearly one decade these figures have been multiplied many-fold and you may, Sir, imagine what the state of affairs has come to be at the present day. We are not in possession of the latest reports; they have not come out yet. It will need a regular research work if the present position is to be understood by anybody.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: The honourable member is misleading the House.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: No, the figures are culled from Government reports and before the honourable member depending on his ignorance called the figures misleading it would be wiser for him to keep mum for the time being. I do not object to even larger sums being spent for communal education of the Muslims, but Sir, I submit that the Government has got no right to squander away money like this out of public fund for the purpose of aggrandisement of one particular community. The members opposite were so vociferous about communal ratio in every thing in season and out of season. If they thought of applying communal ratio in the amounts to be spent on education they would have felt ashamed to see that their communal ratio so far as the figure for minority community is concerned has come down to less than Rs. 1 lakh as against nearly Rs. 20 lakhs spent on Muslim education. This shows that the Government which is the custodian of public funds is not utilising these public funds in the interest of the education of the people at large. But the Government ridden by the Muslim League Ministers are pilfering the public funds, defalcating the public funds and utilising them for the purpose of self-aggrandisement of the majority community. What is the result? You will find that there is a huge provision for spending for the purpose of developing a Muslim University, in order to convert the Islamia College into a Muslim University. I do not see any reason why this money could not have been spent for the purpose of developing a scientific institution, an institution for imparting scientific and technical knowledge to all the students of Bengal who would come forward for the development of the Province as a whole. If they are so keen upon imparting religious education there is no bar to getting contributions from the Ispahanis, the jute profiteers and many other war contractors who made money at the cost of 50 lakhs of lives of the people of Bengal. They can be asked to make donations for religious education at least as a balm to their conscience. What I definitely say is that no Government which claims to be recognised as a responsible Government has any right to squander away public funds in this manner. This is nothing short of criminal misappropriation of public funds by a coterie-ridden Government in order to carry on their work of nepotism and favouritism in the name of education. What has been the result? I feel ashamed to say that even in the mind of young students whose mother tongue is Bengali, even in the mind of young students who ought to be proud of being the sons of Bengal, and who ought to have been proud of the great man, poet and philosopher, Dr. Tagore of revered memory, there is that incredible communal poison.

We find in the educational institutions such a poisonous frame of mind has been created that even on the Birth day anniversary of Poet Tagore, Muslim students were instigated by the Muslim League to carry on protest and demonstration. Is it not unworthy of the Muslim students to show disrespect to the greatest Poet before whom the world bows its head in veneration? Sir, this is the result of Muslim League's policy in educational matters. On the other hand, what do we find in the Biswabharati? Sir, you will find that in that great institution of which the world is proud today Poet Tagore—that visionary, that philosopher—created a Chair for Islamic culture and study. But, Sir, you will find that the communally perverse mentality of the Muslim League is such that you cannot show me a single instance of an institution, founded by a Muslim whose mind is so communally-ridden with the Muslim League mentality, to have allowed or founded a Chair for the study of Sanskrit or for the preservation of Ancient History and Culture of India.

Sir, down the slippery incline plane of communalism lies the way of changing the Muslim mind which is sought to be hardened by these hangmen of intellect that is represented by the Muslim League Party, who, in the name of education carry on their gangster method of pilfering out of public fund for the purpose of prostituting the intellect of the younger generation of Muslims in order to create the field for their civil war. Sir, if the work of building up the nation, if the work of building up a bright future for the Province had been in their view, they would surely have desisted from this path.

Sir, let me sound a clear note of warning today. This talk about subsidising Muslim education will not cut ice any longer. If, Sir, in this Province any people needs subsidy for advancement in education, it is the two crores of Hindus who are styled by the Britishers as the Scheduled Castes who have been steeped in ignorance and had no education for the last two centuries. And now the Muslim League think that they can perpetuate the division among the Hindus following the British practice. It is the two crores of Hindus, the Scheduled Castes included, who need more money for their education. By a paltry sum of five lakhs the Scheduled Castes cannot be bought off or be made their slaves in the game of politics by the League Ministry. The Bengalees will compel the communal Ministry to come to the right path in the interest of Bengal and rectify themselves.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to introduce compulsory free primary education all over the Province.

Sir, in moving this cut motion I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister to a few revealing facts which came to my notice from the Report of Public Instruction in Bengal in 1940. There I find that as far as primary education is concerned, in class I about 15 lakhs of students entered that year but in the 4th class I find that only one lakh and 91 thousand remained, that is, about 13 lakhs had to leave their school by the fourth year, and the Hon'ble Minister would probably be interested to know, if he has not yet seen these figures, that as far as Muslims are concerned, in the first year about 8 lakhs got admission but in the fourth year only 80 thousand remained, that is, about 7 lakhs left school before reaching the fourth year. Similarly, as far as higher education is concerned, from class VII to the B.A. class, about 5 lakhs had to leave their school and college. (The Hon'ble Mr. SAYYED MUHAMMAD HOSAIN: I have got the figures and I know it.) The Hon'ble Minister knows it. Now, I do not know what the Hon'ble Minister attributes this to—but I think that this is due to the poverty of the students which is not a matter of interest, I think, to the Muslim League Ministry at the moment and

because the students know that they have a very uncertain future because there is no parallel development, all-round development of industry and agriculture. Secondly, Government finds it difficult to find any solution because without the support of the people a revolutionary scheme of education cannot be put into effect in our country, but the Ministry is not concerned with getting the support of the people, they are mightily pleased with themselves with the support of one section of the higher class of Muslims. Thirdly, the Government has no bold policy and therefore it always says it has no money because there is no policy of nationalisation of industry and agriculture and so on. Government is at the same time—I hope that is also known to the Hon'ble Education Minister—spending lakhs and lakhs of extra money on the police to suppress our people. Therefore the Government finds no money for the Science College or for the education of the ordinary sons and daughters of Hindu and Muslim and Scheduled Castes people.

There are about 120,000 primary teachers in our country: The Government has announced some increment in their wages. It is not acceptable to them and they are right. No human being can accept the wages offered by the Government. They wanted Rs. 55 and Rs. 65 for untrained and trained teachers per month but the Government is not giving them that wage. The Government has offered them Rs. 32, Rs. 24, Rs. 20 and so on—miserable wages for school teachers who are supposed to train young students.

The Government, I am told, has a scheme of organising 450 primary schools by the fifth year—it is a Five Year Plan—and 4 training colleges and 50 model schools. But the Sargent Scheme has told us that we need about 50,000 schools and 250,000 teachers. I do not know what the Hon'ble Minister thinks about that. The expenditure, of course, will be about 37½ crores with 19 crores recurring expenditure. That money can be found if they stop giving money to the police and if they do a little bit of nationalisation of industries, but the Ministry cannot do these things because they do not have the support of the people, ordinary common people—Hindus, Muslims and Scheduled Castes—of our country.

Lastly, the Government, I think, has no policy of education either for the Mussalmans or for the Hindus, but at the same time the Government has announced to make a show to the Muslim students that rupees ten lakhs are going to be spent for them. Of course, the Ministry have done so much wrong to the peasants, to the workers, both Hindus and Mussalmans, that they must get somebody's support and therefore the young Muslim students are sought to be misled by showing this figure that certain special amounts are being spent for them and their hostel. But I am sure when we go to the Muslim students and tell them that they need not be taken in, bluffed by the Government in this manner, they will understand it. I also believe that the Government does not know how to spend this special sum for the Muslim students—whether to send them to England, America and other countries or to spend money here on religious education for the Mussalmans. There is, it seems, a quarrel inside the Muslim League as to how this money is to be spent.

Therefore, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose to make a few observations about various matters in this field, and the House will know that they come after a very long and affectionate study of the problems. We have here 18 pages full of cuts, about 228 proposed motions, and many of these contain 2, 4, 6, 8 suggestions. From these pages we could make a very reasonable treatise on the condition of education in Bengal today. It is according to our fashion that we put them all down in the way of complaints, so that a visitor from afar might think that there is nothing satisfactory at all in this Province, but if we had another day to discuss

what is being done, then, I think, we could put up an equally satisfactory list of what is being done. The outstanding fact—and to me, an astounding fact—is that whereas 20 years ago we managed with a budget of about 130 lakhs we have now 4½ crores. That is to me stupendous. I do not think the Ministry of 20 years ago could have managed to spend anything like this money. I hope that our Minister will be able to. There is a lot to be done for which he has no money. It will be deplorable if anything is not done for which he has money. Now it is unfortunate that in India, nor merely in India, education, which is the making of citizens, is always regarded as an inferior occupation. We regard our teachers, especially our school teachers, as workers of a very inferior kind, and we have had, and perhaps read, references in the discussion today and in our agenda to the condition of primary school teachers. When I was in that department, I several times had to work out schemes, and we never could do anything because the schemes that seemed to be at all reasonable came to—I remember the figure—at least Rs. 2½ crores. That was 20 or 24 years ago. That would not do today. How are we to find money? Our sympathy for the primary school teachers is a magnificent thing, and it is out of this we may hope some day or other to improve their lot, but Bengal suffers because it is a mighty Province with nearly everybody living in the villages where income from rates is insignificant. I do not know what we can do there, but for years we have said the same thing, and read the same thing. Now local bodies have a part of the responsibility, but we know that local bodies cannot carry this responsibility, and I think our system of local self-government suffers from the nature of its inception. I believe that its beginning was something after this kind. A Lieutenant-Governor went into some offices in Clive Street and elsewhere and found that their Heads kept their tables quite clear. He got the impression of wonderful industry. (Laughter.) He found that this was done by sending to them in other rooms all the work that came in. That impressed him, and gave him an idea for carrying on the local administration of this country, which was already begun in Bengal in the way the District Magistrate carried on. What was already being done by the District Magistrate is now being done by the new bodies, district boards and municipalities. They were created; duties were thrown upon them, and it was never realised how heavy these duties, these burdens would be in a few years. Resources have never come up to our needs. If the Minister could do everything we would like him to do, if he could suddenly appear as a fairy waving a magic wand and satisfy all our demands, we should have nothing at all to do, and I suppose under biological principles we should soon fade away as being no longer needed in the struggle for existence. (Laughter.) But we do not want progress as rapid as that. The only part that is wanted to fade away is my part here, and we are not called upon to fade away in less than 15 months. We shall have time to discuss these things again.

I wish to say a word about the Pandit class. They are regarded as unimportant, as outside the main stream of culture and education, yet their culture is, as a class, valuable. An old saying tells us that studies pass away into character; they do not always pass away. The Pandit class—I speak as a very incompetent member of the Sanskrit Association—the Pandit class has the culture of learning and the culture of character, and for both reasons they are a valuable element in our social system. I do not believe that any Pandit of our town has burnt a tram car or any students of *tolā* have thrown bricks at the police. (Laughter.) They have their own standard of behaviour, and this is closely associated with their tradition and the culture of their learning. What I say about them I will also say about those who correspond to them in Islamic learning. Value comes to us not only from the main stream of education. It can come from many directions.

Next I would say a word about the Calcutta Commercial Institute. The only one of its kind in this Province and in Assam, it is supposed to give the

highest business training; it teaches up to a very high standard. It trains men to become registered accountants and competent men in banks, and it does much else. Yet because it is classed as a school it is treated very shabbily, and we have the ridiculous position that pupils there are men who come to be made into accountants and bankers, men—pupils—come who have themselves salaries that the teachers cannot hope for. I will not say more about this, but I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to do a lot of thinking about it. Eight years ago a committee was formed with Mr. Younie, a well-known Calcutta business man in its Chair. It reported, recommended great changes, great improvements, but nothing has yet been done. That was 8 years ago, and this is the only large, important business school in the whole of Bengal and Assam.

I would like to say a few words about girls' education. First of all, I object not merely on the ground of language. Government sometime uses the term "female education", but it is not female education. Education that we give girls is very masculine education (laughter), because they insist on ignoring feminine options and on doing what boys do. (Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: They begin to picket!) Girls' education in India and everywhere suffers from the Queen Victoria. She once told her Prime Minister Disraeli to stop all this nonsense of higher education for girls. Women ought not to be educated further than to make them comfortable companions for their husbands. Anything more would lead them astray.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit.)

One minute more, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Thank you. I now end with a reference to a motion that Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar did not move, one that startled me. He went back into the most primitive form of communalism that the world has seen. He suggests not only different communities but different universes for men and women. He demands a separate university for women. Why? I speak from a great deal of experience, I am not boasting of my experience as an educationist, but that experience has been enriched, widened, deepened by two daughters, three sisters and a variety of nieces all of whom have been afflicted by higher education; (laughter). So I know that women do not all go to colleges and institutions in search of learning. They do not go to colleges and universities in search of learning primarily but as a secondary aim. They go in search of opportunity to prove that they have better brains than their brothers. They generally do prove it. Now it may be that Mr. Mazumdar put in his cut motion as a feeble defence of a man who sees that man is going to be swept away by the rising and superior ability of women. So long as we work in the same institutions women will show their intellectual superiority, and when they look round and see, as astronomers and metaphysicians suspect that this earth of ours has been set apart as the lunatic asylum of the planetary system—

MR. Md. HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, কবিগুরু কথা নিয়েই আমার বক্তব্য আরম্ভ করছি। এদেশে যে শিক্ষার পুণর্জন ইংরেজ আমলে হয়েছে তার সমালোচনা পুনরুত্থান বলছেন—“আধুনিক কালের নতুন বিদ্যার যে আবির্ভাব হ'ল তার প্রবাহ বইল না সর্গভূমী দেশের অভিনুগে। পাখরে গাঁধা কুণ্ডের মত বানে বানে সে ক্ষয়িত হয়ে বইল, তীরের পাণ্ডাকে স্পর্শী নিয়ে ছুর থেকে এসে গণ্ডুর তক্তা করতে হয়। নানা নিঘরে তার আঁচরাই ধাঁধা। তার আছে বিশিষ্ট রূপ, সাধারণরূপ নেই। সেই জন্যে ইংরেজী নিয়ে ধাঁধা বিশিষ্টতা পেয়েছেন (আমার সাহনের সান্নিধ্যে বাংলার সিংহ বাঘরা বলে আছেন) তীরের বনের মিল হর না সর্গসাধারণের সঙ্গে; দেশে সকলের চেয়ে বড় জাতিতে এইভাবেই, প্রেক্ষিতে প্রেক্ষিতে “অশুশ্রুতা”।

যেমন রাজনীতি ক্ষেত্রে, তেমন সমাজ-জীবনে, তেমন শিক্ষার ব্যাপারেও তরুণ প্রগতি-পন্থী বাংলার কর্তব্য “জাতিভেদ”, শ্রেণীভেদে শ্রেণীভেদে অশুশ্রুতা দূর করা। তীর্থের পাণ্ডার অবিকার থেকে মুক্ত করে নিকাকে সার্থু-জীবন শৈলের অভিব্যে প্রবাহিত করা।

বাংলার শিক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে তীর্থের পাণ্ডা কাহা? এ প্রশ্নের উত্তর দিতে গেলে সকলের আগে যেন পড়ে গোলা-দাঁধির বুঝি-ব্যানাভি কোলাসানীর বাস ভালুকের কথা। গড় জেঁদু বছরে শৈলের নানা জারগার পাখরে পাঁখা কুণ্ডের স্রষ্টা হয়েচে শিক্ষার নামে।

ইংরেজের আবির্ভাবের আগে এদেশে ছিল মুসলমান শাসন। মুসলিম শিক্ষানীতির সব চেয়ে উল্লেখযোগ্য ব্যাপার—এর গণতান্ত্রিকতা। এতে ছিল না কোন দিন অশুশ্রুতা বা জাতিভেদের অস্তিত্ব।

আরব জাতির জ্ঞানচর্চা সম্পর্কে বলতে গিয়ে নিকলসন্ বলছেন, “সভা আরব জাতির আবির্ভাবে প্রাচ্যে জ্ঞানের ক্ষেত্রে যে আলোড়নের স্রষ্টা হয়েছিল, পৃথিবীর ইতিহাসে তার মজীর পাণ্ডা যাবে না। শ্রমলশ্রুতাপ বলিকা থেকে দরিদ্র নাগরিক পর্যন্ত সকলেই যেতে উঠেছিল জ্ঞানের এই মহোৎসবে। শ্রুত্যোক্ত চেয়েছে নিজের আলোচনাকে বড় করে আলাতে—সকলে মিলে যেন দূর কথতে পারে অভ্যন্তরীণ অঙ্ককার। যৌযিৎ যেমন করে দূর দূরান্তর থেকে নবু আহরণ করে আনে, বিদ্যাবীণ্ড তেমনি ভগবতের বহুভাণ্ডার লুণ্ঠন করে এনে জ্ঞানের বহুচক্র তৈরী করেছে। সেপেছোড়া এই সাধনার ফলেই আমরা পেয়েছি মহাসভাতা—বা’থেকে হয়েযে বর্তমান বিশৃশুসভাতার গোড়া পত্তন।”

মুসলিম শাসনে ভারতের শিক্ষাপদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে আলোচনার সময় এ নয়। এখানে শুধু একখানি বলতে চাই যে মুসলিম শাসনের শেষ সময়েও ভারতে শিক্ষার যে আয়োজন ছিল, বর্তমানে হু’শো বৎসর বৃষ্টি শাসনেও আমরা সে বন্ধক রাখা করতে পারিনি। এ সম্পর্কে বেশী বলবস্কা সংগৃহীত হয়নি। সান চিহাস মুসরো, জন মাথাই, মি: আডাম্, মি: বেলি, ডক্টর বোশাখ ও ডক্টর হাশ্চিার যে প্রাধান সংগ্রহ করেছেন তা থেকেই আমাদের বক্তব্য প্রমাণিত হবে।

ভৈনক ইউরোপীয় লোক বলছেন, “মুসলমানেরা ব্যাপক শিক্ষাপদ্ধতির আয়োজন করেছিল। শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠান-গুলোর ব্যবহার বহুনের জন্য ইংরেজ রাজত্বের প্রাবর্ত্তে ও তাদের ছিল তিন কোটি নিকার এগাউমেন্ট। ইংরেজ রাজত্বের প্রাথমিক যুগে বৃষ্টি গভর্নমেন্টের সহানুভূতিসম্মত ফলে এই চমৎকার শিক্ষাপদ্ধতি ধৃশ হয়েচে।” ১৮১৩ বৃষ্টিতে বৃষ্টি গভর্নমেন্টের সামনে সাক্ষা দিতে গিয়ে মাহাজের গভর্নর সান চিহাস মুসরো বলেছেন, “বৃষ্টিপূর্ণ যুগে, এমন কি বৃষ্টি গভাজের প্রথম কিছু দিন শ্রুত্যোক্ত প্রায়ে একাধিক ছিল ছিল।” মি: আডাম্ ১৮৩৮ সনে বলেছেন, “বাংলা বিহাবে কুলের সংখ্যা ছিল এক লক্ষ; যেসিহুটি শ্রুত্যোক্ত ৬৩ জন জাহের জন্য ছিল একটা করে ছিল। শিক্ষা নিষ্ঠশালী লোকদের মধ্যেই যে সীমাবদ্ধ ছিল তা নয়, জনসাধারণও গ্রহণ করেছিল নিকাকে জীবনের সামগ্ৰী বলে।”

ডা: আনি বোশাখ তাঁর “কলনা লেকচারে” বাংলার মুসলিম শিক্ষানীতি সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে উচ্চকণ্ঠে এর প্রশংসা করেছেন। তিনি বলেছেন, “মুসলমান আমলে স্থাপত্য শিল্প ও কাঞ্চনিত্যের যথেষ্ট উন্নতি হয়েছিল। শ্রুত্যোক্ত মসজিদের সঙ্গে যুক্ত ছিল একটা করে প্রাথমিক স্কুল। উচ্চ শিক্ষা দেওয়া হ’ত মাহাসার। কেবল সাধারণ শিক্ষা নয়, উচ্চাত্তের সাহিত্য, লিঙ্গপক্কতা, এমন কি ব্যবসায় সাংক্রায শিক্ষার শিক্ ও মুসলমানদের মজর ছিল। উচ্চ শ্রেণীর শাসক, রাজনীতিক, রাষ্ট্রনীতিবিদ এবং সামরিক কর্মচারী স্রষ্টার জন্যও আয়োজনের ত্রুটি ছিল না। সারান্য শ্রবজীবীরাও যাতে লিখতে পড়তে এবং চিন্তাবপন্ন রাখাও শেখা তার জন্য যথেষ্ট যত্ন নেওয়া হ’ত।” ডা: হাশ্চিার, ডা: বেলি ও ডা: জন মাথাই পুত্রব ননীধীরাও ডা: বোশাখেরই উক্তি প্রতিনিধিত্ব করেছেন।

এর পরের ইতিহাস ইচ্-ছিলু জাজ্ঞাত ও বাংলার রাষ্ট্রজীবন থেকে মুসলিম নিষ্ঠাভনেরই ইতিহাস। ইংরেজ রাজত্বের শুরুতে মুসলমানদের সঙ্গে ইংরেজের যুধ সম্পর্ক কোন দিনই ছিল না, ছিল তরবারির ব্যবধান। জাতি হিসেবে ছিলো ইংরেজের শিক্ প্রসারিত করেছিল মহলোপিতার দৃশ্য। এই মহলোপিতার কলে এদেশে যে শিক্ষা প্রবর্তিত হ’ল তাকে বলা যায় ইচ্-ছিলু শিক্ষা। এই যে শিক্ষা প্রবর্তিত হ’ল এর স্বপক্ষে যত বৃষ্টি ধাক্কা না কেন, আজ বলতে দিা নেই যে এর অস্বাভাবিকতা, আনন্দহীনতা এবং ভ্রমশিক্ষার অভাব আমাদের জাতীয় প্রগতির পথে অস্বস্ত্য ছরে কাঁড়িয়েছে। স্কুল বলতে আমরা আজ বুঝি একটা শিক্ষা দেওয়ার কল, বিশৃখিতালায় বলতে বৃষ্টি তিগ্গীধারী লোক তৈরীর কারখানা। এতে হয়নি শৈল আয়গঞ্জির উদ্যোগ, হয়নি শুধু বৃষ্টির আগরণ। এক-কণার শিক্ষা আজ নাগরিক সভ্যতার বিন্যাসের বন্ধ হয়ে কাঁড়িয়েছে। এর ফলে এই জাতিভেদ-প্রসিহিত শৈলে মৃতন করে স্রষ্টা হয়েচে জাতিভেদ ও অশুশ্রুতার।

মুসলিম আদলে বাংলার যে সার্বভৌম শিকার প্রচলন ছিল, চিরযাত্রী বঙ্গোপত্য শাসনোক্ত বাহ্যিকশক্তির ভিতর দিয়ে তার গোড়ার কেমন করে আঘাত হানা হ'ল তার বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করেছেন ঐতিহাসিক উইলিয়ম হান্টার। মুসলমান শিকার বানচাতিতে মুসলমানরাই শুধু কতিপয় হয়েছেন তা নয়, জনশিকার শ্রোতও গেল শুকিয়ে। ইংরেজ ও ইংরেজী-শিকিত উচ্চবর্গের হিন্দু'র সবনুয়ে আজ দেশে একটা চাকুরীসূঁচ অভিজাত পরনির্ভরশীল বর্ষাবিত্ত শ্রেণীর সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। বাংলার রাজনীতি ও শিক্ষাক্ষেত্রে যে বিরোধ আজ ঘূষায়িত তার গোড়ার রয়েছে এই নূতন বর্ষাবিত্ত সমাজের সঙ্গে জনসাধারণের বিরোধ। ইংরেজ আজ চলে যেতে চাচ্ছে—সঙ্গে সঙ্গে দেশের সর্গু হারা have-notরা ইংরেজের আগুয়ে যে কায়েমী স্বার্থবাহীরা সৃষ্টি হয়েছে, তাদের কাছ থেকে নিজেদের অধিকার চাচ্ছে বুঝে নিতে। কায়েমী স্বার্থ এতে হয়ে উঠেছে আতঙ্কিত। শ্রীযুক্ত নীহারেন্দ্র দত্ত বক্তৃৎসার ও বিবল সিংহের বক্তৃৎসার পোনা মাচ্ছে কায়েমী স্বার্থের মরণ-চাঁৎকার। শ্রীযুক্ত বিবল সিংহ বলেছেন, “শ্রেণিভেদশী কলেজ শাসকী হিন্দু কলেজেরই নানারস মাত্র”। অত্যন্ত শীঘ্রী কথা। যেকালে মুসলমানরা ইংরেজের সঙ্গে সংগ্রাম করতে সর্গু হারাতো বসেছিল সে সময় মিঃ সিংহের পুণ্ড্র পুরুষরা হিন্দু কলেজের প্রতিষ্ঠা করেছিলেন। হিন্দু কলেজ ও বেঙ্গল কলেজে মুসলমানদের প্রবেশাধিকার দেওয়া হ'ত না সেকালে।

বেকলে-প্রবর্তিত ইঙ্গ-হিন্দু শিক্ষা-পদ্ধতি সৃষ্টি হয়েছিল এদেশে ইংরেজ রাজত্ব পাকা করবার জন্য। এই শিক্ষা-পদ্ধতি সৃষ্টি করেছে ডালহৌসী ও স্কটল্যান্ড ব্রীটন-ব্রীটন গণপ্রজাতন্ত্র ও শোষণবাদের তত্ত্বগুলো।

আজ যারা মুসলমানদের শিক্ষাধীনতার দিকে বক্র দৃষ্টিপাত করেন, তাঁদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি ইতিহাসের ভেঁড়া পাতাগুলোর দিকে। মুসলমানদের আজকের অধিকার গোড়ার বয়েছে তাদের স্বদেশপ্রেম, আর অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের শিকার গোড়ার ছিল তাদের ব্রীটন প্রেম, মানে স্বদেশের প্রতি বিশ্বাসভক্ততা। এই ইঙ্গ-হিন্দু শিক্ষা-পদ্ধতির ফলে দেশে শিক্ষার অবস্থা কিরূপ শোচনীয় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে তা বোঝা যাবে এই শুধা থেকে—বাংলার লোকসংখ্যা বর্তমানে ৬ কোটির কিছু বেশী। এই বিপুল জনসংখ্যার মধ্যে লিখন-পঠনক্ষম লোকের সংখ্যা শতকরা ১৬. মুসলমান দশের কম, আর মেয়ে শতকরা তিন। শিক্ষার বাস্তবতার বিবেচনা করে মুসলমানের মস্তিষ্কে কি বসন অপচয় হচ্ছে তা ভাবলে শিউরে উঠতে হয়। ১৯৬৮-৬৯ সনে গড়পড়তা শতকরা ৭৩.৫ জন মুসলমান ছাত্র-ছাত্রী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় থেকেই বিদায় গৃহণ করছে। উচ্চ শিক্ষার মুসলমানের চেয়ে হিন্দুরা কিছু বেশী অগ্রসর সশেষ নাই। কিন্তু বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পরীক্ষার ছাঁচ থেকে তারা চাকুরীর উদ্দেশ্য হয়ে বেরিয়েছে, মানুষ হতে পাবেনি। হিসাব করে দেখা গেছে শিক্ষাক্ষেত্র বোম্বে, মাদ্রাস, এমনকি উড়িষ্যা ও মধ্যপ্রদেশের মুসলমানদের চেয়েও বাংলার মুসলমানদের অবস্থা শোচনীয়।

পৃথিবীর সর্গু প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার আলো উজ্জ্বল থেকে উজ্জ্বল বাগে যলে উঠেছে। আর আমাদের সরকারী রিপোর্টে ই বলা হচ্ছে—four-fifth of the money and effort is at present wasted.

ষষ্ঠদিন আগে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বিল আইনে পরিণত হলেও প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আবশ্যিক ও অবৈতনিক হতে পারল না, এখনো যে দেশে একজন চাপরাশীর বেতন মাসে ৪০ টাকা, সেখানে ১২০ টাকা থেকে ২০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকের বেতন।

কি প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা, কি মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা, কি মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা, কি উচ্চশিক্ষা, কি স্ট্রীপিকা-কোথাও planning, এর বাসাই নাই আমাদের। ওয়ারেন হেস্টিংস মাদ্রাসা গড়েছিলেন সদর দেওয়ানী আদালত ও নিজস্ব আদালতের কর্মচারী ভৈরী কববার জন্য। হিন্দু কলেজ ও কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সৃষ্টির বেলায়ও ঐ শ্রেণীর উদ্দেশ্যই কার্যকরী হয়েছিল। সর্গু এই দৈবতে পাই সেই পুরাণ নীতিই অনুসৃত হচ্ছে। কবিতার পর কবিতা বসেছে, রিপোর্টের পর রিপোর্ট ছাপা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু পরিবর্তন কোথায়? আজ যেমন অন্যান্য ক্ষেত্রে, তেমনি শিক্ষার ব্যাপারেও শ্রোয়াজন বৈশুপিক পরিবর্তনের। কি বহিঃশক্তির, কি বিরুদ্ধ দলের, কাহারো মধ্যেই বৈশুপিক পরিবর্তনের মানদিক্কা এখনো সৃষ্টি হয়নি।

সরকার পক্ষ সব সময়ই বলছেন শিক্ষার জন্য টাকা নেই। রাইচাঁদ বিনভিৎসের শ্রুত ও অশ্রুত হস্তীওয়ার জন্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় যেখানে, সেখানে শিক্ষার জন্য টাকা নেই—একে অশ্রুত পরিহাস ছাড়া আর কি বলা যাবে?

শিক্ষার টাকা বোঝাও করতে হলে অনুসরণ করতে হবে বৈশুপিক নীতি। ভবিষ্যৎ ও বর্তমান উদ্দেশ্য করতে হবে। নিম্নপত্রকে পরিণত করতে হবে জাতীয় সম্পত্তিতে, পাঠের তত্ত্ব চেনে জানতে হবে জনকল্যাণের জন্য। আরও উচ্চপত্রের কর্মচারীদের বেতন কুঠার চালিয়ে জানতে হবে কেটে।

বিকল্প পন্থাতে চান তাঁরা জাতীয়তাবাদী, তাঁরা প্রগতিবাদী, কিন্তু ওসব তত্ত্ব ক'থা ক'বিকি। তাঁদের লীড়ি হচ্ছে শিক্ষাকে কার্যকরী করে'র গতির মধ্যে আবদ্ধ করে রাখা। শ্রীযুক্ত বিলম সিংহ আপত্তি তুলেছেন, পাঠ্য-পুস্তকে আরবী-কারসী পন্থা আদর্শী করা হচ্ছে। এরচেহে প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল মানসিকতা আর কি হতে পারে?

বাক্সা ভাষা বাক্সার ও কোশি এবং বিহার ও আসামের কয়েক নম্ব নোকে'র বাড়িওয়ালা। অতীতে ব্রাহ্মণ্যবাদ জনগণের ভাষা বাক্সার চর্চায় বাধার সৃষ্টি করেছিল। সেখানে বক্তৃত্তা শ্রীযুক্ত লাড করেছিল সৌভে'র বাগ্মন্যে'র কাছ থেকে বর্ষাশা পেয়ে।

বাক্সা ভাষায় মানবতার আদর্শনীও করেছে মুসলমানরাই। তেঁহু'র থেকে হাটির মানুষের পৃথিবীতে মানিয়ে এনেছেন একে। বাক্সা সাহিত্যকে জনসাধারণে পরিণত করার শাখি'ও হ'বে মুসলমানদেরই। বাক্সার মুসলমান—বাক্সার জনসাধারণ—যে পন্থ, যে কথা ব্যবহার করে তাকে বাস গিরে চলেতে পারে না। ভবিষ্যতের ভাষা ও সাহিত্য।

বিলম সিংহ আপত্তি করেছেন বাংলা সাহিত্যে আরবী-কারসী পন্থের ব্যবহারে। কিন্তু জিজ্ঞাসা করি—তাঁর হাতের “সোহাত”, “কনহ”, “কাগজ” এসব বাস গিরে তিনি লেখাপড়া করছেন কেমন করে? আরবী-কারসী বর্জন করলে তাঁকে “আইন কানুন”, “সৌজদারী”, “আলাদাত” ও করতে হ'বে বর্জন। তাঁর “জেনেব”, “জমাল” ও গায়ের “আনোমান”, চোখের চপরা এসব বাস গিরে হ'য় তাঁর সভ্যতাই বাস পড়বে। এক কথায় আরবী-কারসীর লোম বাড়বার চেষ্টা করলে তাঁর কখনই যাবে উড়াই হয়ে। “তখন নগাচী বাসা হয়ে অবশ্যে কিরে লাগে ডাড়া গভাত'র থাকবে না।” তাই বলি “বীহে”, “বজ্জী” বীহে, (Laughter)। ভাষার পুষ্টি সাধনের জন্য আরবী-কারসী কেন, বুনো কানী যে কোন পন্থ আনরা বাংলা সাহিত্যে আদর্শনী করন। বজ্জচন্দ্র, বজ্জনাথ, প্রমথ চৌধুরী প্রমুখ সাহিত্য শ্রমীদের ও তাই অভিব্যক্তি। বজ্জনাথ ও প্রমথ চৌধুরী এক সময় আবার ‘বুলবুল’ মাসিক পড়ে এ সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করেছেন। চারিত্রিকের দরজা, জানালা বন্ধ করে দেওয়া আবারের কাজ নয়। আবারের কাজ হ'বে সব দরজা খোলা। ওসব প্রতিক্রিয়াশীলতার শূভাপ থেকে মুক্ত হয়ে আজ বাংলার প্রত্যেকটি হিন্দু-মুসলমানের উচিত বৈশ্বাসিক পরিবর্তন নিয়ে আসা শিক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে। আনরা যেখানে চাল তেঁতে দিয়ে বসে আছি, পুরুষস্বাক্ষরের বলে সোভিয়েট বাণিয়া সেখানে জয় করে ফেলেতে সকল বাসকে। ১৯৩৭ সালে কলিকাতা যেখানে নিপন-পননকম লোকের সংখ্যা ছিল শতকরা ২২ জন, আজ সেখানে নিবন্ধরতা সম্পূর্ণরূপে লুপ্ত হয়ে গেছে। শিক্ষার আলোকে মকর দেশের ভূমারকে ওরা গলিয়েছে—বসা-এশিয়ার বিশৃঙ্খল ভিত্তিতে করেছে বেদনা সকার। বিজ্ঞানের শেষ ফলস পদার্থ ত'রা যাতে পায় এইজন্য পুণ্যালের আর অর্থ নাই।

মাসারি মুন, কিডার গার্টেন, শিভ-হোম, প্রো-সেণ্টার, টেকনিকার, প্যামোনিয়র আলোচন প্রভৃতির ভেতর দিয়ে এরা শিক্ষার বদল সমাধার করেছে সমাধান।

আর আবারের দেশে এখনই শিক্ষার কথা বলা হয় তখনই শুনি ঠাকা নাই। শিক্ষা বজ্জীকে বলি সোভিয়েট রাশিয়ায় গিয়ে দেখে আসুন ঠাকার সমস্যা কেমন করে সমাধান করা হয়েছে সেখানে। আপন'রা বসন্তের ঠাকা সেই, আমি বলি গোলকীষির দিশালের আয়েজ'নগুলো মূলিনাস করুন, top-heavy administration এর মাথা কাটুন এবং মাথা কেটে সেই ঠাকার বাংলা'র জনসাধারণের জন্য শিক্ষার আলো চড়িয়ে দিন। বাণিয়া ও অন্যান্য দেশের শিক্ষা-পদ্ধতি দেখে এসে বাংলা'র শিক্ষার আলো জ্বলুন। যাতে পাঁচ বৎসরের মধ্যে বাংলা'র প্রত্যেকটি লোককে শিক্ষিত করতে পারি ও নতুন বাংলা সৃষ্টি করতে পারি তাঁর পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করুন। শিক্ষার আলোকে বাংলা'র প্রত্যেকটি জেলা, বহকুমা, পানী আলোকিত হোক। অজ্ঞানতা ও কৃষকের লুপ্ত হয়ে যাক দেশ থেকে। আবারের লুপ্ত সকল হোক, সার্বিক হোক, মূল্যব হোক।

Mrs. ANWARA KHATUN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাক্সালী আজ দেখে এবং বলে পড়।

তাই তাঁর চাই দেখের এবং বনের পাড়া। বাক্সালী আজ পল্লু বন গিয়ে নিজের বার্ধে অর্থ—লুপা বেড়ে আর কাঁচো কথা সে ভাবতে পর্যন্ত পারে না। একরা'র শিক্ষার হারাই সেই পল্লু দেখ-বনকে স্বাধীনতা করা হার তাই চাই শিক্ষার ভবনোদয়। সেদিন Education Exhibitionএ সেখানার শিক্ষার প্রত্যেক ক্ষেত্রেই বাংলা ভাষারের অন্যান্য প্রদেশের পেছনে—যথা Trained Teacher'র সংখ্যা, School College'র সংখ্যা ইত্যাদি অন্যান্য প্রদেশের তুলনার অনেক কম। সেদিন Budget Speechএ তখনতে সেখানার বাক্সালীর টিউটরিয়েল অনেক চেষ্টাই হয়েছে, কিন্তু আবার বনে চর বলি অন্য সব বিশ্বের সাময়িকভাবে কেনে বেবেও বাক্সালীর বলি কেবল শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থাই করা হয়, তবে তুল ত হ'বেই না বসঃ ট্রিক্ট হ'বে। শিক্ষিত বাক্সালী নিজের এবং দেশের ও দেশের জন্য ভাবতে পারবে। তাই এই শিক্ষার ক্ষেত্রেই সরকারের বিশেষ জোর দেওয়া দরকার।

বাংলাতে নানারূপ নান্দ্যমিত্য এবং দলাদলি—তারপর বেয়ে পুরুষ—প্রকৃতির দু-জাত বহি ও আছে। তাই আমাদের এরূপ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে যারা পেছনে পড়ে আছে, তাদের জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে যেন তারা এগিয়ে যাবা অগ্রসর হয়েছে তাদের ধরতে পারে। তখনই বাংলার ডেলাভেদি থাকবে না, দলাদলি থাকবে না, তখনই বাংলার হবে এক উন্নতিশীল তরুণ জাতি এবং এ যদি কেউ মনে করে থাকেন যে এক সম্প্রদায়কে পেছনে ফেলে কিংবা এক জাতিকে পেছনে ফেলে অন্য এক সম্প্রদায় কিংবা জাতি এগিয়ে যাবেন এবং তাঁরাই বাংলার গৌরবের জাতি হবেন, তাহলে তিনি ভুল করবেন। কেন না বাঙ্গালীকে শক্তিশালী জাতিতে পরিণত করতে হলে চাই বাংলার সবাইকে সমান ভালে পা ফেলে হাঁটিতে, চলতে এবং ভাবতে। সবাই জানেন যদি সবত্ব পরীক্ষক বক্তিত করে কেবল বুর্ষেই রক্তের সন্ধান হয়, তবে তাকে স্বাস্থ্য বলা যায় না। তাই চাই প্রত্যেকের জন্য উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা।

ছেলেদের শিক্ষার অনেক কিছু অভাব অভিযোগ আছে, সেটা সরকার নিশ্চয়ই পূরণ করবেন। কিন্তু আমি মেয়েদের বিষয়টাই কিছু বলতে চাই—বিশেষ করে মুসলমান মেয়েদের সম্বন্ধে। কারণ হিন্দু মেয়েরা তাদের সমাজের উন্নয়নের জন্যই আমাদের চেয়ে অনেক আগে। আমাদের ছেলেরা কিন্তু বেশী ভাগই মেয়েদের উন্নতিতে স্নানী ন্দু এবং প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করে তাঁরা আমাদের পেছনে রাখতে চেষ্টা করেন। তাতে তাদের স্নানী আছে, মেয়েদের তারা ব্যবহার করতে পারেন ছাতা লাঠি স্বরূপ, নিজেরের খোলা খুশীমত। তারপর আমাদের সমাজে একজন কবি-বোলাও হয়েছে, তাঁরা ও হাদিস দলিল কিছুই জানেন না, বরং নিজের স্নানীমত হাদিস ব্যাখ্যা করেন। কিন্তু কেন তাঁরা ভুলে যান যে ইসলাম উচ্চ জাতি মেয়েদের দিয়েছে? তা আজও অন্যান্য জাতি তাদের মেয়েদের দিতে পারেন নাই। আজ সাড়ে তেরশ বৎসর পরে ইসলামের কাছ থেকে অনেক জিনিষ অনেক ধাব করে তাদের মেয়েদের দিচ্ছে—যেমন মেয়েদের সম্পত্তি দেওয়া ইত্যাদি। যে জাতি মেয়েদের পেছনে রাখতে চাইবে, তারা ঘরের চানে কিছুতেই এগুতে পারবে না। তাই তুরস্কের উন্নতির নুনেই হচ্ছে তাদের মেয়েদের সর্গাঙ্গী ব্যবস্থা।

তাই আমার অভিযোগ হচ্ছে ছেলেদের যতগুলি Government High School আছে ততগুলি High School মেয়েদের জন্যও করতে হবে। যতগুলি Grant টেনেলের School এর জন্য আছে ততগুলি মেয়েদের জন্যও দিতে হবে। বাংলায় সর্বমোট ৩১ Female Government High School আছে তার মধ্যে দুটি Calcuttaয়। Park Circus areaতে একটি Government Female High School এর জন্য আমি সেদিন শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রীর নিকট গিয়েছিল। তিনি বললেন টাকা নেই—Government Schoolএ কি হয়—Private aided schoolত ভাল ইত্যাদি। কিন্তু টেনেলের বোলায় কি তা ভাল নয়? ওনার হতে Government School করতে ২১৩ বৎসরের কাছ। আমি ভিজ্জালা কবি, এও সময় কি ওনার বয়সের দরুণ লাগে, না অন্য কিছু কারণ আছে? Muslim Education এর জন্য নন্দ লক্ষ টাকা রাখা হয়েছে, তার মধ্যে Muslim মেয়েদের সংখ্যানুপাতে আমাদের জন্য Reserve রাখতে হবে অর্ধেক। Park Circus Area Muslim Area—তাই এই Reserve Fund থেকেই এই Government Female High School কেন হবে না? আর টাকার কথা আমার ভাববার বিষয় নয়—Finance Minister তা ভাববেন।

তারপর মুসলমান মেয়েদের শিক্ষার উন্নতির জন্য একটি বিশেষ Plan করতে হবে। Budget Speechএ ভদ্রতে পেশা বাংলায় মেয়ে শিক্ষার খরচ হচ্ছে ৪০ লক্ষ টাকা এবং এর ভিতর ২ লক্ষ হচ্ছে Muslim মেয়েদের জন্য। কেন আমাদের জন্যও ৩৮ লক্ষ টাকা হয় না? আমি অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য যে টাকা ব্যয় হয় তা কমান্ডে বলছি না, সেটা আরও বাড়ুক। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমাদের বরাদ্দও বাড়ুক। আমাদের শিক্ষা সর্বমোট সন্তোষজনক নিত—তাকে বাড়াতে হলে বিশেষ মজ্জুর দরকার। তাই একটি Special Inspectress এর Post বাংলায় শুধু Muslim Female Education এর জন্য হোক এবং তাঁর অধীনে দুটি Assistant Inspectress এর Post করা হোক—একটি পশ্চিম বাংলার এবং অন্য একটি পূর্ব বাংলার জন্য। তাদের বিশেষ বয়স যেন বাংলার Muslim Female শিক্ষা সমস্ত জড়তা ও বাধাবিশ্যু অতিক্রম করে পূর্ণতা প্রাপ্ত হতে পারে।

মেয়েদের ভিতর যাতে কট্টর-নিম্প শিক্ষার প্রসার হয়, তা সরকার দেখবে। এর জন্য বড় রকম পুঁজিপায়কতার দরকার তা করতে যেন তিনি পছন্দপন না হন। বাংলার এ জাতীয় School আছে ২৯টি—তারমধ্যে যাত্র ৩১ মুসলমানদের যাত্র পরিচালিত। আমি আগেই বলেছি মেয়ে শিক্ষার প্রতি আমাদের সমাজের দৃষ্টি নাই। তাই যাতে এ শিক্ষা মুসলমান মেয়েদের মধ্যে প্রসার হতে পারে তার জোর কড়ি যেন সরকারের না হয়। সারকমার

জারী করে দেওয়া হয়েছে যে Trained Teacher না হলে school-এর grant কাটা যাবে। আমার জিজ্ঞাসা হচ্ছে Education Minister বেয়েন্ডের Training-এর কি বশোভিত করেছেন? সবেমাত্র এই জাতীয় school আছে—একটা ঢাকার এবং অন্যটা Calcutta-র। এর ডিউর মুসলমানদের reserved seat ঢাকার ৭৮ টি এবং Calcutta-তেও তাই—এই ১৪১৫ টি Trained Teacher-ই কি বাংলার কুণা মিটাতে পারে? বাংলা সরকারের সব বিষয়েই গোড়া কেটে আগার জল ঢালা। শিক্ষার যদি বশোভিত না করা হয় তবে কেন আইনের এত স্বত্বাধিকার?

এরপর ঢাকার দু-চারটা কথা আছে। ওখানে লম্বা লম্বা quota Muslim বেয়েন্ডের জন্য বসান আছে। বেয়েন্ডের জন্য যেমন Medical College-এ ৫টা আসন, B. T. College-এ কতকগুলি আসন, B. T. ছাড়া বেয়েন্ডের যত বড় শিক্ষাই থাকে না কেন, যত বড় Degree-ই থাকে না কেন, ডাক্তার Government service দেওয়া হয় না। পূর্বেও একটা মাত্র College যেখানে বেয়েন্ড এই B. T. Degree নিতে পারে। পূর্বেও মুসলমানপ্রধান জায়গা—তাঁরা এত ধনী Guardian মন যে বেয়েন্ডের কোলকাতার বেবে পড়তেন। গত বৎসর শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী সাহেব যখন ঢাকার যান, তখন আমি অবিসার বৃত্তির মধ্যে ঘুরে তাঁর কাছ থেকে কথা আদায় করেছিলুম যে Munnujan Hostel-এর যত একটা Hostel ঢাকার করা হবে। জিজ্ঞাসা কি হ'ল? এখনও কি তিনি সেটা করবেন বলে মনে করেন? কাল তাঁর Parliamentary Secretary Mr. A. Khaliq-এর সঙ্গে এ বিষয়ে কথা হ'ল। তিনি বললেন, “আমরা মাসিক ১২০ টাকা ঢাকার Muslim Female Hostel-এর জন্য বসান করেছি”। কিন্তু সেই Building কোথায়? আমি এই House-এ দাঁড়িয়ে বলতে চাই Education Minister কি আমাকে ডিস্কা পিটেন, ১২০ টাকা কি একটা Hostel চলে? Education Minister জানেন যে গত বৎসর আমি Dacca University-র Vice-Chancellor Hassan সাহেবের নিকট গিয়ে এই Hostel-এর জন্য Building-ও ঠিক করেছিলেন। তিনি Dacca-building এবং ঢাকার House-এর দুটির একটি নিতে বলেছিলেন।

তারপর ঢাকার ইন্ডেনের মৌলভীর কথা, Class VI থেকে X এবং I. A., B. A. দু—Class-এর ডিউর প্রত্যেক Class-এ আরবী এবং পার্সী আছে। তাই আমার প্রশ্ন যে একজন মৌলভীর পক্ষে এতগুলি Class নেওয়া কি সম্ভবপর? প্রায়ই ট্র্যাক Joint-Class নিতে হয়, তাতে efficiency of teaching-এর ক্ষতি হয়। গত বৎসর আমি বলেছিলেন যে এই Post-টিকে দুটি Post করা দোক—one for Persian and another for Arabic। এরপর মুসলমান বেয়েন্ডের জন্য পুরুষ মৌলভীতে আমার আপত্তি—কেন না অনেক Guardian-এরও এতে আপত্তি।

অনেকে জানেন যে বেয়েন্ডের জন্য বাহালা আছে এবং এই department-এ একটা Parliamentary Secretary নিয়ুক্ত হয়েছে যার সঙ্গে আমি একটা বাহালা সংক্ষেপে কথা বলতে গিয়ে জানতে পারলাম যে তিনি বেয়েন্ডের সঙ্গে কথা বলেন না। এই যদি ধরন হয় তবে বেয়েন্ডের বাহালাসার স্তম্ভ-স্বপ্নের কথা, সুবিধা-অসুবিধার কথা বলার কার কাছে? তাই আমি চাই এর প্রতিকার।

আমি conclusion-এ বলতে চাই যে অসহ্য: প্রত্যেক District Town-এ একটা করে Female Government High School হওয়া চাই। সেদিন এ কথা বলতে গিয়ে Minister-এর কাছে ওলতে পেলুম, কেন আপনারা Government School-এর জন্য এত পীড়াপীড়ি করছেন—একি লোভা ব্যাপার? আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি, সেটা এমন কঠিন কি? এই সব school হলে ideal school বাকি কেন্দ্র করে সেল এদের অনুকরণে আরও অনেক school গড়ে উঠবে। হয়ত বলতে পারেন যে এই ideal school-এর প্রয়োজন কি? আপনারা লম্বা জানেন লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করে কেন গরু এবং ঘুরনী পুঁবে farm চালান হচ্ছে? গরু ও ঘুরনী কে না পুঁঘতে জানে? তবে কেন তাঁর ideal বাবা সরকার? এই সব farm থেকে বাইরে একটা ডির কিংবা এক জটাক দুই-এ পাওয়া যায় না। তবে কেন তাঁতে বাংলার এত টাকা ব্যয় হয়? এতে যদি আমদের শেফাই দেওয়া হয়, তবে কেন ideal school-এর সরকার নেই? আমি আশা করি আমার একথাগুলি waste-paper basket-এ যাবে না, আমার suggestion অনুযায়ী প্রত্যেকটা কাজ করা হবে।

MUSAN ARA BEGAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I crave your indulgence in order to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Education to the pressing problem of reorganisation of girls' education and women's services in the Education Department, which has a very important bearing on the

question of improving the condition of women's and girls' education in Bengal. The Hon'ble Minister of Education, I am sure, has well studied the problem and has also his own plans. Yet as one who has spent all life in the cause of women's education and their social amelioration, I beg to offer a few suggestions.

In Bengal there is no woman officer in the Education Directorate to represent the needs and requirements of the women's education. I strongly feel that for proper administration and control of girls' and women's education there should be a Deputy Directress who will advise the Director of Public Instruction in all matters relating to the women's education and in order to assist her in her work there should be a Committee as I had suggested in September last consisting of women educationists representing all shades of opinion.

Bengal can boast of the greatest number of women graduates in India. Women of Bengal have already been the pioneers in the field of girls' and women's education. The women educationists of Bengal are willing and anxious to shoulder the responsibility and offer co-operation. They know their own limitations and their drawbacks and yet they are not blind to the immense strength and dormant efficiency which they possess and they will utilise whenever necessity arises.

If Government is willing to form a Committee of women educationists as proposed to assist the Education Department, I think there will be no lack of co-operation from the public.

Girls' and women's education has been progressing very quickly and at this stage I think it is very desirable that a much larger staff of Inspectresses should be appointed for proper control and supervision.

I have not a very comprehensive idea of the progress made by Educational Institutions of other communities. But I can speak with some confidence as regards the Muslim girls' education in the Presidency Division. I have collected the figures and I find that during the last ten years the Muslim Girls' Secondary Education has made appreciable progress. In 1936 there were only three Muslim girls' secondary schools. In 1946, the number rose to 27.

In Bengal we have only one High School for Muslim girls. I strongly feel that there should be one more High School for Muslim girls in Calcutta and two in Dacca.

Regarding the two High Schools for Calcutta, I propose that there should be one full-fledged High School for Bengali, and the other for Urdu, so as to enable the girls to have a proper education in their mother tongue.

Our most burning problem is trained teachers to meet the growing demand of education. The Muslim Female Training School in Calcutta, which is the only institution in Bengal for Muslim women teachers, is very insufficient to cope with the demand, and has a very limited accommodation. Originally it had 15 seats. The number was raised to 26 in 1936. I propose that this Training School should be enlarged so as to make provision for training of 100 teachers annually. Also a similar Female Training School should be established at Dacca. With these two Training Schools in the Province the Government will be able to meet the growing demand for teachers and thereby give an impetus to the cause of girls' education in Bengal.

Hostel accommodation for Muslim girls in Calcutta is another urgent problem. I hear that a large number of girls coming from the mofussil cannot take admission into the schools and colleges in Calcutta for want of proper hostel accommodation. I therefore propose that a hostel should be started in Calcutta for the accommodation of 200 girls. Moreover there is crying need for suitable hostel accommodation for all stages everywhere in the

Presidency. There can be no question of the fact that class-teaching is only a part and a perfect part of education, and this has to be supplemented by regular domestic life.

It is disgraceful that Muslim girls should be placed under the control and guidance of non-Muslim superintendents in hostels. The sort of training that Muslim girls generally receive in hostels under Muslim supervision still requires vast modification and improvements, and the state of things in non-Muslim superintendence becomes all the most disgraceful by contrast.

I should also stress the need for preparation of text-books suitable for Muslim girls particularly whose mother-tongue is Urdu. I propose that this question should be examined by the proposed Committee of Women educationists.

For the encouragement and advancement of the educationally backward girls especially of the poor and meritorious girls, special provision for stipends and scholarships should be made on a much larger scale than at present which barely fulfils the necessity, and cannot quench the thirst of knowledge that is now prevalent among deserving students.

Bengal though claiming to be the premier Province of India cannot deny the apathy in improving the status of their teachers, who are the backbone of the State, and it is through them that the light of knowledge penetrates the human mind.

Taking the general pay of the whole of India I can say with confidence that Bengal is the only Province with lowly-paid teachers. It is mostly for these reasons that we have lost many efficient and capable educationists, who have gone to other provinces for their services.

I will not go into the details of the scale of pay in comparison with other provinces at present, but I shall confine myself in requesting the Hon'ble Minister of Education to look into this matter and make provision for an increase in the salary of teachers.

Moreover due to the low scale of pay it is difficult to secure the services of teachers of respectable standing, who would rather stay at home than accept such a low scale of pay. The result is that most of the posts are filled up by others.

A special stress should also be laid on the character and discipline of the teachers, as it is very incumbent that these points should be carefully looked into, as it is in their hands lies the moulding of the future generation of India's destiny.

The demand for Muslims' female education at present is in deep contrast with the apathy a few decades back. Now they have awakened with a vigour, and the demand has increased enormously in these days.

It is a fact that up to recently the majority of the Muslims were much prejudiced against the modern system of education for their girls. But now the outlook has changed and they are coming in tremendous numbers for education. I am afraid the Government has not been able to keep pace with their demand. It must be admitted however that the average Muslims do not see eye to eye with the system of education for girls; that is also a controversy in the press now-a-days. They do not really want that their women should give up the *pardah* and the sanctity of their homes according to the Shariat (the law of Islam). Hence they want a system of modern education in conformity with their culture and tradition. Government has to meet this situation which should no longer be left in abeyance, and it is our demand that Government should not ignore this most important problem with carelessness and disregard.

I do sincerely hope that the Hon'ble Minister of Education will accede to my humble request and the Government will set up a Committee at once

to draw a scheme and thereby solve these problems, and any other that may arise for the advancement of women's education and devise effective means for the spread of modern education amongst the Muslims.

Mr. EBRAHIM KHAN: I would say a few words about the dark picture which the budget presents before this House. I find a traditional lack of policy regarding the proper upkeep of non-Government Art colleges and non-Government Secondary institutions of this Province. The real education work of this Province has long been carried on by these non-Government institutions, but from the beginning of the modern education, Government have systematically meted out a step-motherly treatment to these unfortunate institutions. One instance of this may be found in this year's budget; Government has provided for an expenditure of Rs. 22,25,900 for Government Arts Colleges; while for a much larger number of non-Government Arts Colleges, Government has provided only Rs. 8,09,600. Sir, the teachers of these institutions have long been passing their days in starving conditions; things have now become so acute that it is now very difficult to find teachers to run these institutions. Prices of the daily necessities of life have gone up, but the pecuniary condition of these teachers remains where it was twenty-five years ago. The position now is this that unless a substantial and immediate grant is specially made for the teachers of these institutions, either these institutions will have to be closed or they will have to be run by inefficient, ill-qualified and discontented staff. In either event it will spell disaster to the educational future of the Province. I, therefore, earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Education to make an immediate and substantial provision for these educational institutions.

I next refer to the adult literacy scheme. We have long heard of adult literacy campaign, but it has remained an ideal of dreamland, and there is no indication whatsoever in the budget of any prospect of an early realisation of the dream. Then again I turn to the question of female education. That is as neglected as before. One instance is that in non-Government colleges of the amount which the Government has provided for expenditure the amount for male education is 91·7, while that for the female education is only for 8·3 per cent. That is the position which is intolerable and cannot be permitted to continue. After presenting a budget of this kind no Education Minister in a Western country would find a quiet home at the end of the meeting.

Sir, I would next point out that in the educational budget there is no provision for any kind of military or semi-military education. We have got money provided for Fine Arts Colleges and even for musical institutions, but none for military training. I hope the Government will soon recognise the necessity of imparting military training to the youth of the country, as time is coming when a gun will be found more useful than a pipe.

Sir, I now turn to the other side of the shield. I sincerely congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Education for what he has recently done for raising the scale of pay of the primary school teachers of the Province. Of course, much remains yet to be done and I hope this will be regarded as only the first step and not as the last step, and actions will be taken as early as funds permit to provide further money for improving the condition of the primary school teachers who have so long been neglected.

We have further been assured by the Hon'ble Minister of Education that he is bent upon making a beginning of introducing free and compulsory primary education. Of course, the machinery which he proposes to set up for enforcing the scheme is extremely slow, but still one feels the consolation when one thinks that in respect of the compulsory primary education of which we used to hear from press reports in our school days, after so many years some definite steps are going to be taken for introducing

it in our land. I hope it will be possible for the Ministry to cut short the period which they propose to take for the introduction of compulsory primary education.

There is another good feature of the education budget of this year, namely, increased grant which has been given to scientific and agricultural education. This side of education has long been neglected. An increased grant in these respects will mean that we can expect a set of specially trained scientists and industrialists who will mould the future of the province.

Sir, I would next refer to another good feature of the budget, viz., the special provision for the educational advancement of the backward section of the people. It is the sacred obligation of all responsible Governments to make such provisions so that the stragglers may come up to the line and all people may begin their onward march towards independence.

Sir, I know the creation of a fund like Muslim Education Fund has stirred the resentment in the camp of the other side, but I think the question should be looked upon from another angle of vision. Regarding the backward section, be they Hindu or Muslim or Christian or of any other faith, it is the sacred duty, nay it is the elementary obligation of any enlightened Government to see that such backward section get sufficient educational encouragement so that the entire people may within the shortest possible time be brought to a line and advance together.

With these words, Sir, I accord my support to the budget.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: মাননীয় শ্রীকার সাহেব, বাংলার শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা ও অবস্থা দেখলে বাস্তবিকই বাস্তবাবস্থা নত হয়ে যাওয়া উচিত। জািনি না আমাদের গভর্নমেন্ট দ্বারা পরিচালনা করেন তাঁদের বস্তুক নত হচ্ছে কিনা। যে Ministry এসেছে, যে Ministry চলে গেছে, কিন্তু বাংলায় শিক্ষার উন্নতির জন্য কোন Ministry সত্যিকারের কোন চেষ্টা করেছেন কিনা তাই সংশয় আমরা উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার পাত্র্য খুঁজে পাই না। যখনই শিক্ষার প্রবাসস্থান পূর্ণ্য উঠে তখনই বলা হয় তদবিলে টাকা নেই, কিন্তু কোটি কোটি টাকা প্রুতি বৎসর এই বাংলার বাজেটে ব্যবস্থা করা হয়, খরচ করা হয় এবং প্রুতি বৎসরই বাংলা ধপড়াবে ভাবিত্যই হচ্ছে সেও আমরা দেখতে পাই। রাষ্ট্র তৈরী করতে হবে, দেশের অনেক রকম উন্নতি সাধন করতে হবে, Metal Road তৈরী করতে হবে ইত্যাদি। এই প্রকার অনেক Headএর বহু বহু টাকা খরচ করার ব্যবস্থা হয়। প্রুতি বৎসর এই Metal Road এর নাম করে বহু টাকা ব্যয় হয়ে থাকে, কিন্তু এই Metal Road এর উপর দিয়ে চলাকোরা করবে যারা তাদেরকে বাধু্য করার জন্য যে শিক্ষার প্রয়োজন তাই কোন সুব্যবস্থা নাই কোন আমরা বাস্তবিকই তা বুঝে উঠি না। শিক্ষার উন্নতির জন্য গভর্নমেন্টের কোন পরিকল্পনা আছে বলে আমরা জানি না। তাতে সত্যই মনে হয় যেন অন্য দেশের সঙ্গে বাংলার কোন সম্পর্ক নেই কারণ অন্যান্য দেশের প্রুতি টাকা করলে দেখা যায় যে তারা অন্য দিকে খরচ করত করত শিক্ষার উন্নতির জন্য সর্গুশ লেগে আছে, আর আমাদের দেশে অন্যান্য Department এর উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা আছে, কিন্তু শিক্ষার উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা মোটেই নেই। এ বড়ই দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয়। Oppositionএ দ্বারা আছেন তাঁরা বাংলার মহিবতগীকে পাকিস্থানী মহিবতগী বলে কত রকম গালিই না প্রুতায় দিয়ে থাকেন। কিন্তু এই পাকিস্থানী মহিবতগী মোরাবানী ও হিন্দুবার হিন্দুদের জন্য অল্প কয়েক দিনের মধ্যেই লক লক টাকা খরচ করছেন। সে টাকা কোথা থেকে আসল? যে Ministryর প্রুত প্রুতাই করা হয় সে Ministryর নাম জড়িয়ে আর তাই বন্দান গোয়ে গোয়ে আমাদের Opposition এর ভয় বহোমরূপণ কত তাই না উপকৃত হচ্ছেন, তাই তা স্বীকার করবেন না। এই হচ্ছে তাঁদের নীতি। কারো, বাংলার General Education এর সুব্যবস্থা করা বলতে গেলে তাই আর আর নেই, সবও নেই। স্বাভেই আমি কেবলমাত্র বাস্তব Education সরছে দুই একটি কথাই বলবো। যে বাংলায় পাকিস্থান করা হয়েছে বাংলার মুসলমানদের বর্ধনিকার সুব্যবস্থা করা তাই মহিবতগী নিশ্চয়ই জড়িয়ে বাড়ী নন বা সবর পান না। কোটি কোটি হস্তপ্রাণ মুসলমানের বর্ধনিকার দিক দেখতে গেলে চোরে পড়ে মার ভাঙার দুই ভয়াপ্রুত বাস্তব আর তাতে ৪ লক অসহায় হস্তপ্রাণ মুসলমান ছাত্র, তাদের না আছে কোন উজ্জল ভবিষ্যৎ না আছে কোন জীবিকানির্ভরতার সংস্থান বা ব্যবস্থা। এই বাস্তবতাগুলির সুব্যবস্থা করা চিন্তা করলে বুঝের অবধি থাকে না। বাক, আমার সবর অল্প, কাজেই সামান্য কয়েকটি কথা বলে শেষ করবো। মাননীয় মহী মহোদয়কে আমি বলতে

চাই যে (১) বাংলার মাদ্রাসা Education এর জন্য যে নতুন পরিকল্পনার কথা হয়েছে, এবং সম্প্রতি যে একটি Syllabus Committee বাস্তব করা হয়েছে—তার রিপোর্ট এবং সুপারিশ যদিও একেবারে শেষবৃত্ত নহে তবুও এটাকে তিনি অতি সম্মানজনক মনে করেন। আর (২) প্রতি জিলায় একটি করে Ideal Madrasah স্থাপন করতে হবে। (৩) Senior মাদ্রাসা থেকে যে সব বৌলবী সাহেবরা পাশ করবেন তাঁদের জন্য Vocational training, Industrial training প্রভৃতির ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। না হয় তাঁদের ডিবাং একেবারে অস্বীকার। (৪) প্রত্যেক Division এ এক একটি title class বৃত্ত মাদ্রাসা স্থাপন করতে হবে। সেগুলিকে ভিত্তি করেই কালে বাংলায় পাকিস্তানী মুসলিম ইউনিভারসিটি গড়ে উঠবে। (৫) এই সকল মাদ্রাসা হতে যে সমস্ত বৌলবী সাহেবানরা পাশ করে বেরুবেন, তাঁদের জন্য কোন কাজের সংস্থান করতে হবে। আজকাল কাজিগিরী নিয়ে টানাটানি আরম্ভ হয়। General কলেজ হ'তে বাঁরা B.A., M.A. পাশ করেন তাঁদেরও পেয়া হয় এই কাজিগিরী। এই পদগুলি absolutely মাদ্রাসা পাশ বৌলবী সাহেবদের জন্য একচেটিয়া করতে হবে। কোন মাদ্রাসা পাশ বৌলবী সাহেব যদি ইংরেজী জানেন তবে তাঁকে, Sub-Registrar করতে কোন বাধা থাকতে পারে না। এই ব্যবস্থা আইনেও রয়েছে, কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত কোন মাদ্রাসা পাশ ইংরেজী জানা বৌলবী সাহেবকে Sub-Registrar এর পদ পেয়া হয় নাই কেন? (৬) প্রাইমারী স্কুলগুলির অবস্থা দেখে মনে হয় যেন সেগুলি গুরুত্বপূর্ণের খোঁজার চেয়েও অধম। কিন্তু তবুও এই প্রাইমারী স্কুলের 3rd কিংবা 4th teacher এর পদে একজন করে বৌলবী বা কাজী নিতেই হবে। কারণ তাঁরাই মুসলমান Boys এবং Girlsদের কোরাণ ও দ্বিনীয়াত শিক্ষা নিতে পারবেন, অন্য কেহ নয়। প্রত্যেক মুসলমান ছেলেমেয়েদের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত ভালরূপে কোরাণ সঠিক পড়ার ব্যবস্থা প্রাইমারী স্কুলে করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন, এবং এই প্রয়োজন মেটাবার একমাত্র পন্থা এই যে প্রত্যেক প্রাইমারী স্কুলে একজন ভাল কাজী নিযুক্ত করা। হাননায় বহী মাদ্রাসাকে এই কয়টি অনুরোধ জানিয়েই আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করতে বাধ্য হলাম।

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I should bring to the notice of the House that usually we work for three hours. Today I propose to work for 3 hours and a half, but there is a big list yet before me and if I go on allowing every member to speak I think we shall have to sit up to 2 p.m. only for the item which has been taken up. There is another item, that is, Education—Anglo-Indian and European. So, let me know the desire of the House whether the House proposes to sit longer than 3½ hours.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Opposition has been allowed 66 minutes today but the Government supporters have been allowed more than 66 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore I have brought it to your notice. At 12-20 Mr. Wordsworth began to speak.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Wordsworth is a supporter of Government, he does not belong to the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: From 12-20 to 1-20 Government party has been allowed. So I am bringing it to your notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The Opposition has not been allowed sufficient time but the Government supporters have been allowed much more time than the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Minister should speak now.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, criticisms have been levelled against Government that no contributions have been given to the College of Science. I have already explained it in connection with another cut motion the other day as to why Government was compelled to scrap that although it was in the original programme. I said at that time that we had to scrap many of our useful schemes because we had to go in for giving larger scales of pay to the primary school teachers and also we are contemplating the introduction of free primary education in Bengal. It

has been said that we are not paying any attention to the scientific education at all and there must be some object in it. That is not at all true, Sir, because I may at once say that even for the Jadavpur College, which is not even a recognised college, we have allotted 3 lakhs of rupees and also a recurring grant of Rs. 40,000 for the next four years. Sir, it has been said that out of the money only Rs. 1 lakh has been paid. I do not know that. The sanction stands there and we are going to pay Rs. 3 lakhs and a recurring grant of Rs. 40,000 for five years for the advancement of chemical engineering in that particular institution.

Then, Sir, we have also contributed, as has been referred to by Principal Ibrahim, and paid sufficient attention to the scientific education. We have allotted about Rs. 4 lakhs for improving the laboratories in Government colleges and another Rs. 8 lakhs for improving the laboratories in grant-in-aid colleges. We have paid sufficient attention to the need of the engineering colleges, because we know that unless we develop engineering education in the Province we cannot keep pace with the time, we cannot really industrialise the country as well as we like. We are in addition sending a very large number of young men abroad for education in different technical branches in order that when they come back they may take upon themselves the responsibility of industrialising the country.

Sir, some of the members from the Scheduled Castes have referred to the contribution, allotment and distribution of money to the cause of Scheduled Caste education. Sir, an allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs was made, as already stated by some members, in the year 1938-39. From that time it is being continued every year and for the distribution of that money a Committee was formed in the year 1944-45 and that Committee is responsible for the distribution of money. I may say that the Committee drew up a scheme last year according to which Rs. 22,000 was allotted to be spent on stipends to be given to the poor and meritorious students of the community reading in the schools and colleges, and Rs. 1,17,420 to be spent for grants-in-aid to Scheduled Caste secondary schools - H. E. and M. E. - Rs. 1,23,000 for furniture, etc., for these schools. Besides, this Rs. 40,000 is being spent annually in connection with hostel accommodation for Scheduled Caste students reading in schools and colleges. An additional grant made for the next financial year is Rs. 5 lakhs as already stated. This also will be distributed according to the recommendation of the Scheduled Castes Education Committee. So, Sir, if there is any defect, it is due to the recommendation of the Committee. If the members so wish and if they want that there should be some more additions to that Committee, I am quite prepared to accept the proposal and I shall be glad to add a few more members to the Committee if the Congress Party so desire.

Then, Sir, as regards the Text Book Committee some allegations have been made. It is said that the Text Book Committee is guided by communal principle. It is not at all true. In the Text Book Committee I find there are 32 members of which 13 are Hindus, 11 Muslims, 6 Christians and 2 Scheduled Castes. So the majority of members of the Committee are Hindus. I do not understand, Sir, how if anything wrong has been done, it can be thrown on the shoulders of the Muslims and said that it has been done on communal basis.

As regards the Presidency College it has been said that there had been supersessions in 16 cases, but I do not know why the honourable member who moved the cut motion could not mention any particular case where anyone was superseded. All that was mentioned was that certain professors were transferred and certain other professors were placed there. As regards those cases I want to say that that was in the ordinary course of things.

In the case of promotions I must tell the House, and the House is certainly aware, that no promotion takes place except with the recommendation of the Public Service Commission in B. E. S. and so it is not the Minister alone who can do anything in the matter of promotion.

It is said that during the disturbances the Muslim boys were taken to the college by cars but the Hindu boys were not so taken and some Hindu girls were taken in the same car as Muslim boys. The Muslim boys approached for the supply of conveyance and they were supplied with cars. If similarly the Hindu boys had approached for conveyance, certainly they would have been supplied. But probably because the Presidency College is situated in a Hindu area the Hindu boys did not require it and so they did not approach us for conveyance. If they had approached, certainly the same facilities of conveyance would have been given to them.

Next I come to adult education. For adult education we have made allotments in our development programme and I think we are going to carry it out according to the programme.

Sir, it has been said that survey school has been transferred from Bankura and that is also from the communal point of view. It is absurd to think that when a school which was transferred during war period is being re-transferred to its original place, it is done on communal considerations. I do not understand how the honourable gentlemen having sense of responsibility can think it so. If there is really a demand for a survey school, in West Bengal I am quite prepared to consider it, but I will have to ascertain whether it is going to be a permanent one.

Then about secular education it is said that this kind of education is not being encouraged. It is not at all true. I do not think there has been any new denominational institution started in the course of this year nor there is any indication of any being started in the near future. How can it be said then that secular education is not being encouraged? There are denominational institutions which are in existence for different communities, and they will certainly continue. They will continue, because they are necessary for particular communities. It is said that the amount allotted to *tols* is limited to only Rs. 1,48,000. We know it is true, because the number of students in *tols* are very small and there is no demand for increasing grants-in-aid for *tols*. If any body had approached, we would have certainly considered the case. The number of students in denominational madrasahs are more than four or five times the number of students in *tols*.

Attention of Government has been drawn by several resolutions for introducing compulsory education in Bengal and I am glad that from all quarters such a demand has come. The cut motions also show that the whole House is united on the point that compulsory primary education should be introduced in Bengal as quickly as possible. I am glad to be able to say for the information of honourable members that we have for ourselves decided to introduce free and compulsory primary education in Bengal as early as possible. We propose to start compulsory education from this year and it will take 5 years to cover $\frac{1}{4}$ th of Bengal. But Sir, I have to warn the House of one thing. The scheme has to be financed from the Government of India Development Fund and so I am a bit apprehensive because we have not been able to follow exactly the lines indicated in the Sargent's report. The Government of India may raise objections as to why Sargent's recommendation were not followed. I think my hands will be strengthened if all the parties in this House say that they all require it in spite of the fact that it does not exactly conform to Sargent's report. According to Sargent's report if we are to introduce compulsory education it will begin after 20 years. We can never in that case expect to realise our object within a reasonable time. So, what we have done is that according to the existing rates of pay we are going to introduce compulsory education in $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the Province as an experimental measure and see the result after 5 years if we find that our financial condition is better—I hope it will be better when the different development project which we have undertaken will materialise we will be able to cover the whole of Bengal in 10 or 15 years.

Mr. COBINDALAL BANERJEE: If there is united effort.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes. I am glad honourable members will strengthen my hands and there will be no lack of united efforts.

I may now tell the House about the huge wastage in a primary school. We find that in class I we have got 58·7 per cent. students in primary schools, in class II it comes down to 19 per cent. in class III 12 per cent., and in class IV only 8·9 per cent. So, you can see that we begin with 58·7 per cent. and come down to an insignificant figure, namely 8·9 per cent. Unless compulsion is enforced we will not be able to prevent this huge waste. Most of the students leave from class I and they do not get such education as might entitle them to call themselves literate. So this huge waste not only of man power but also of the money should be stopped by introducing education on compulsion basis.

So far as Madrasah education is concerned we have already provided sufficient funds this year.

Regarding girls' education I may inform the House that we have given particular attention to this aspect of the question and Government is going to have a separate Inspectress for Muslim Girls' education, and she will exclusively look after the Muslim girls' education. We are also contemplating to appoint a separate Inspectress for Scheduled Caste Girls' education. We are going to have an Inspectress in each district. We have made provision for the education of backward communities of every nationality because we consider that it is the sacred duty of Government to help the weak and the ignorant. We have also made sufficient provision for the education of Anglo-Indians because their requirements are of a different nature and should be met by Government. For the education of Indian Christians we propose to make provision and we are considering the matter.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Annada Prasad Mandal that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Prafulla Ranjan Sarker that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Prafulla Ranjan Sarker that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Rajendra Nath Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Mohini Mohan Barman that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kanai Lal De that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—61.

Sandopadhaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Sanerjee, Mr. Gobindlal
Sanerjee, Mr. Suali Kumar
Sanerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar
Basu, Mr. Jyoti
Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
Birsha, Mr. Bir
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prasad
Das, Miss Bina
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath
De, Mr. Kanai Lal
Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan
Dehui, Mr. Harendra Nath
Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu
Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari
Gayer, Mr. Arabinda
Ghose, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar

Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan
Halder, Mr. Kuber Chand
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath
Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh
Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad
Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan
Murarka, Mr. Basantlal
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra
Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta
Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta
Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath
Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan
Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nelloe
Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh
Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra

NOES—61.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.
Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza
Abdul Hal, Maulana
Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad
Abdul Hannan, Mr.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir
Abdullah Baqui, Mr. Md.
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr.
A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Khan (alias Nuru Mia),
Mr.
Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed
Abdus Saleem, Mr. Md.
Abdur Reza Choudhury, Mr.
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
Ahmed Ali, Mr. Mir
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
Akbar Ali, Maulvi
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.

Anwara Khatun, Mrs.
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra
Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath
Biswas, Dr. Bhola Nath
Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
Fazlul Karim, Mr.
Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), The Hon'ble
Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
Hafizuddin Choudhury, Mr.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
Hassan Ali, Mr.
Hatem Aity, Mr.
Husan Ara Begum
Ilhas Ali Molla, Mr.
Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
Lutfur Rahman, Mr. Dewan

Madar Bux, Mr.
 Mahzuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Mohammad Sayed Mia, Mr.
 Malik, Dr. A. M.
 Maniruddin Akhand, Mr.
 Masihuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah),
 Mr.
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Talyab
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
 Muhammad Qussem, Maulana Haji
 Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Ruknuddin, Mr.
 Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
 Najmul Huq, Mr. Md.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nasarulla, Mr. K.

Nuruzzaman, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Patel, Mr. R. E.
 Ricketts, Mrs. E. M.
 Salim, Mr. S. A.
 Serajul Haque, Mr. Syed
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
 Serajul Islam, Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias*
 Badsha Mia), Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
 Sharfuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Stark, Mr. A. P.
 Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
 Tofazul Hossain, Mr.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
 Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury.

The Ayes being 61 and the Noes 81, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs. 4,21,24,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hossain that a sum of Rs. 4,21,24,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" was then put and agreed to.

37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 13,56,800 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European".

Mrs. E. M. RICKETTS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to make a few general remarks on the grant for Anglo-Indian education, I would like to remind the House that the position of my community with regard to education is different from that of any other community in India. Our very existence depends on the granting to us of specific educational facilities, and any move to deprive us of these facilities is a move to exterminate us. I cannot believe that at a time like the present, when every community in this vast sub-continent is anxious about its future, anyone would wish to add to the anxieties of a numerically weak but loyal and useful minority by begrudging it the elementary right to run separate institutions for its children, particularly as this right is enjoyed by every other Indian community and is indeed being extended rather than curtailed in any direction.

I have already on a previous occasion reminded the honourable members that we, as a landless community, have to depend entirely on service for our livelihood and as trained personnel is essential to the progress and prosperity of Bengal, as an Indian community we insist on exercising the right to choose the type of training we wish to give our children as a preparation for service to the land of their birth. Although in our schools the culture and style of teaching is in keeping with our traditions and history, our leaders have for many years insisted on the need of orientating the original system, in order to keep our children abreast of the rising wave of nationalism, and today in spite of the difficulty of deciding on the most suitable vernacular for our schools in Bengal, our children are encouraged to be bi-lingual and all our progressive educationists are devoting particular attention to the improvement of the methods of language teaching and to the practical training of our children to be good citizens of India.

Over and above this, we are determined to do everything in our power to imbue our young people with the ideal of service, so that our community may continue to give generous and devoted service, not to anyone Government or ruling power, but to our Motherland.

Because of our eagerness to learn and our habit of co-operation, money given to us for educational purposes can never be an unnecessary expense, nor can it exceed our deserts, for although as a community we pay comparatively more income-tax than any other single community, we have no institutions similar to the Municipal District Schools maintained by the authorities at considerable cost for other communities. Moreover our own schools serve the rest of India, almost as much as they do us, because the percentage of Anglo-Indian children actually catered for is much below the reserve of 60 per cent. since Armenians, Jews, Parsis, Europeans and occasionally Chinese and others who have adopted our style of living and dress, come in on our quota. As a result of this my attention has often been drawn to cases of our own children being unable to obtain admission to many of our more popular schools. As a point of fact therefore we are still in need of more and larger schools, which of course means bigger and more generous grants. In spite of the repeated efforts of the strong and the powerful to deprive us of a place beneath the Indian sun, we continue to believe that our rights will be safe-guarded and will always receive due consideration, for a nation that is striving for its own freedom and salvation cannot deprive a small minority of a share in the present, or a hope for the future. We are happy to see that in accordance with the pledge given during the last budget session, Government have provided an amount in excess of the statutory minimum for Anglo-Indian Education in this budget, and we are grateful for this. We would reiterate however that a statutory minimum fixed many years ago, when the purchasing power of the rupee was much in excess of what it is today, bears no relation to our current requirements and we like to believe that our urgent and pressing needs have at last been recognised—perhaps for the first time since 1935. With our innate optimism we consider this a happy omen in an uncertain future, but nevertheless whilst thanking the Hon'ble Minister for his sympathetic treatment, we would like an assurance from him that our needs will continue to receive the generous consideration of Government, and we would remind him that Anglo-Indian parents still have to meet school bills quite disproportionate to their incomes in spite of Government grants to our schools, and in the next budget we would like to see provision for bigger grants to Anglo-Indian schools and, in particular, to Anglo-Indian orphanages. We have many schemes for improving the lot of our own people, and through them the lot of the countless millions of Bengal still awaiting the priceless boon of literacy. We realise that at present the need of our country is neither destructive criticism nor idealistic suggestions but effort and co-operation and we hope soon to be in a position to offer our help to Government for further social service. With more money and greater facilities we are determined to be even more useful to the India of the future than we have been to the India of the past.

The Hon'ble Mr. SAIED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, we are conscious of the special needs of the Anglo-Indians and we will continue to be sympathetic to the particular needs of that community, as we have been in respect of other minority communities of this country. That is all I need say.

I now commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Saied Muazzamuddin Hosain that a sum of Rs. 13,56,800 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 1-57 till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 24th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 24th March, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 171 members.

Obituary Reference.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is, Sir, with great regret that I have to place before this House the melancholy news of the passing away of Dr. Azizul Haque after a sudden illness. He was, Sir, at the time of his death a member of the Bengal Legislative Council, but previous to that he had held high offices which were a tribute to the versatility of his genius. He was the first Speaker under the new Constitution of this Legislative Assembly, a Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, High Commissioner for India in England and thereafter a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in all of which places he acquitted himself not only creditably, but raised the status and prestige of India and of Bengal. He was, Sir, as all of us know, a most ardent worker, and he never could find peace unless he was working at something constructive. Just before his death he had finished completing a history of the life of the Prophet and, as a matter of fact, the closing of the last Chapter of that book synchronised with the closing of his life. As all of us are aware, Sir, he was of very genial temperament, a good friend of wide and liberal outlook. He had studied the problems of Bengal, particularly of rural Bengal, with an assiduity which was a second nature to him. His services at this critical juncture of our political history would have been most valuable, and I am sure, Sir, that everybody in this House will feel that his passing away has been an irreparable loss not only to the nation to which he belonged, but to the entire country. Sir, our hearts go out to those members of his family whom he has left behind, and I am sure that they will find some consolation in the fact that all of us mourn with them the passing away of a man who was truly great and rose to great eminence by sheer strength of character, industry and ability.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress Assembly party I join in the tribute paid to Dr. Azizul Haque, by my honourable friend, the Leader of this House. Dr. Azizul Haque did not begin his life with any special advantage. He had not the advantage of wealth or, what is called, family influence. But by sheer ability he raised himself to some of the highest positions in the public life of this country. From the Presidentship of his village union board he raised himself to the position of one of the Ministers in the Bengal Cabinet, then of High Commissioner for India, then a member of the Executive Council of the Viceroy and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. But, Sir, we in this House shall chiefly remember him as a very successful and great Speaker. He was elected to that high office as a party candidate, but soon he won the esteem and, what is more valuable, the affection of all the members of this House. I remember, Sir, with pain that I met him for the last time accidentally because unfortunately owing to the atmosphere prevailing in the province, we, politicians, who differ politically, have very little chance of meeting each other socially, but I had the privilege of seeing him for the last time on the day when he had the attack. I appealed to him to come out of his present retirement to active public life on the side of sanity and

balance. We talked most regretfully of the prevailing insanity of communalism that has attacked our province. I remember in reply to that he smiled pathetically. Little did I know then, or little did anybody know then, that he will be taken away from us so suddenly and so soon.

Sir, I again join in the homage paid to the soul of Dr. Azizul Haque, and I pray, may his soul rest in peace.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of this section of the House in the absence of its Leader who deeply regrets that he is unable to be here for this occasion, I offer my few words of appreciation for our dead companion and of sympathy for those most deeply affected by his loss. We have known him for years in this House and outside of it. Many of us knew him for years before he came into this House. We have admired him, his energy, ability, fairness in controversy as a member of the House, as a Minister under the old conditions, and as a Speaker who set a firm and admirable basis on which this Assembly could build up its traditions. He found time for arduous work as the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, and there some of us were intimately associated with him, and we could see the same ability, energy, industry and desire for good that he showed in all work that he did. Had there been nothing more than this, it still would have been an illustrious career—a remarkable proof of the way in which a man under the conditions in which we live and work can, by developing his abilities in the opportunities that circumstances give to him, rise to heights where he can do great service to his country. There was more to come than this. He was selected for the remarkable responsibility of India's representative in London and from that he was called away to membership of the Viceroy's Council to take his part in the Government of India, the highest post to which a subject can aspire. There too we have seen his work on a large scale. We have seen the vigour, the ability, the courage, the lion-heartedness with which he has always carried through the responsibilities entrusted to him. His career will be material not only for school-boys but for maturer studies for a long time to come. The school-boy of Santipur and the student of College Square will be pointed to as an illustrious example of what can be done. So much for this party.

I would like to say a word in a more personal sense as one associated with him from long before he became well known. He was among my early students, and at Presidency College we became very good friends, interested very largely in the same pursuits. Whenever I went to Krishnagar I met him and I knew of the energy and keenness with which he was studying the social, economic and political aspects of his environment. The Act of 1935 has had many consequences none more notable, I think, in a personal sense than that of this school-boy of a small Bengal town, Santipur, who was called to the highest responsibilities in his own province, in his own country, and to a high and dignified responsibility in my country; and he had the time and the energy also to make his mark on the educational thought and memory of Bengal.

I offer the tribute of these words to the memory of one who was great in many capacities and who, to many of us, was a very great friend.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen, in associating myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the leaders of the parties and groups on the sad and sudden demise of Dr. M. Azizul Haque, I feel it my duty to offer a personal tribute to him.

When in 1937 the new Reforms were ushered in and a new post of the Speaker of the Assembly was created, the task of making regulations and of giving correct guidance on the lines of parliamentary procedure fell on him. This onerous duty he discharged very ably.

Dr. Azizul Haque was born at Santipur in the district of Nadia in 1892 and received his early education in the local Madrassa and the Municipal School. He won scholarship after scholarship which enabled him to finish

his academic career in the Presidency College and the University Law College, Calcutta. In 1915 he joined the Krishnagar Bar and shortly afterwards was appointed Public Prosecutor of his district. From his position as a mofussil lawyer he rose to a position of great eminence by sheer dint of merit and held most of the high and distinguished appointments that an Indian could aspire to have. Under the Reforms of 1919, he was Minister of Education of the Government of Bengal. The new Reforms of 1937 saw him as the Speaker of the newly constituted Legislative Assembly. Thereafter he was appointed as High Commissioner for India in London which post he relinquished when he was appointed a Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

As a district lawyer he entered the political field and served various local self-governing bodies in the district. He became the Vice-Chairman of the Nadia District Board and Chairman of the Krishnagar Municipality which offices he held for a number of years. He entered the Bengal Legislative Council as a member in 1927. He soon made his mark there by the great interest that he took in the economic development of the country. It was he who first introduced the Bengal Money-Lenders' Bill in the old Council. In the debates of the Council he had shown profound knowledge of the intricate problem of the waterways and economics of Bengal.

He was the only Indian member from Bengal to the Franchise Committee presided over by Lord Lothian. He had served various official and non-official committees including the Bengal Banking Enquiry Committee, Jute Enquiry Committee, Bengal Board of Economic Enquiry, Retrenchment Committee and the Bengal Board of Industries. As an educationist he has rendered great service to the educational upliftment of the country. He was a member of the Central Education Advisory Committee, Calcutta University Re-organisation Committee, Muslim Education Advisory Committee and the Kamal Yar Jung Committee of All-India Muslim Educational Conference. He was for some time Chairman of the Female Education Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education. His scheme of primary education is still the scheme in force. He organised the Bengal Education Week for co-ordinating the knowledge of the school teachers throughout the province. During his Ministry, several important schemes were undertaken for the educational advancement of the backward classes such as introduction of a new Education Service Regulation which fixed a larger proportion of Muslim teachers and provision for more free-studentship for Muslim and Scheduled Castes in Government Colleges and Aided Schools; special science scholarship for Muslims; creation of overseas scholarship for Muslim students from Mohsin Fund; Financial assistance to Muslim officers for foreign education from Mohsin Fund; a scheme for the survey of girls' school, appointment of an advisory board for women's education and the provincialisation of the Sakhawati Memorial Girls' School. Physical fitness of the students and vocational training of the students were not also neglected. During his administration a system of compulsory tiffin at Government schools was introduced and an Agricultural Institute was established at Rajshahi.

From 1938 to 1942 he was Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and was mainly responsible for the establishment of a Chair for Islamic History and Culture in the University and was himself appointed the Head of the Department. The University in recognition of his services conferred on him the Honorary degree of Doctor of Literature.

As Speaker of the Bengal Legislative Assembly, he gave some very important rulings on the interpretation of the Government of India Act, 1935, and has laid down the lines on which this Assembly is still working. As he rose from one high office to another, honours and distinctions were conferred on him. He was awarded the title of Khan Bahadur in 1926 and

C.I.E. in 1937. He was created a Knight in 1941 and K.C.S.I. later on. All these honours he renounced at the call of the Muslim League which party he belonged to from its early days. He was a scholar and has written several books but above all he was a gentleman and only those who knew him personally could have any estimation of the sterling qualities of his head and heart. He was truly a people's man. Of him it could be said that he could walk with Kings and yet not leave the common touch. His death at this moment is not only a stunning blow to the Muslims of India but to the whole country for he was truly one of the great Indians.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope it is the desire of the House to send a message of condolence and members will signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Secretary will take necessary action.

With the concurrence of the members I adjourn the House till 3-30 p.m. tomorrow.

Today's business will be taken up tomorrow, and the demands fixed for tomorrow will also be taken up.

Adjournment.

Accordingly the House was adjourned at 4-25 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 25th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 25th March 1947, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 205 members.

MR. SPEAKER: It was agreed yesterday that there will be no question today so that we may devote the whole time to the discussion of the budget.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

XVII, etc.—Irrigation.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.3,62,90,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works".

Sir, in a deltaic country like Bengal with so many mighty rivers and innumerable water channels the problem of irrigation is the most vital problem. The once prosperous country flourishing with trade, agriculture and industries is fast deteriorating. The floods of the mighty rivers create a havoc in certain parts of the country while the water channels having dried up the prospect of a good harvest is ruined for failure of timely rains and for want of proper irrigation facilities. The result has been as serious as it could possibly be. Thus more and more lands are lying barren, produce of food-grains are dwindling down and incidence of malaria is on the increase. In the decaying districts the flood-ridden, malaria-stricken and famished people have been reduced to such a state that they are unable to carry on the agricultural operations themselves and are obliged to have the lands cultivated by hired labour imported from outside the province. Thus large sums of money are being annually drained out in the shape of agricultural labour. To realise the seriousness of the situation, I would now only say that Bengal is perhaps the only province where still 70 per cent. of the police force are recruited from outside the province and the decaying districts of the province are perhaps the unique of its kind where the majority of the actual tillers of the soil are foreigners. It is a most significant fact that in the decaying districts like Burdwan and Hooghly there has been an alarming shrinkage of over 40 per cent. of the agricultural lands during the last fifty years. So, Sir, the irrigation is the most important problem for this province. The time and the tide of the mighty rivers wait for none. Much time have been wasted and the vast water resources of this province have been allowed only to create havoc and to flow down to the sea. With the proper utilization of these immense water resources various industries could have been developed and electric energies generated, vast areas irrigated and malaria could have been washed out of the country. I submit, Sir, that the irrigation problem is the most important of all problems, because it will strike at the very root of all problems. With proper drainage and irrigation facilities we can make the people prosper physically and economically.

Sir, we are about to attain our independence and to be truly independent we must make the nation healthy and wealthy. By the successful execution

of our irrigation problems we will achieve this end. Sir, all our projects are productive and remunerative; every embankment we construct we save an area from flooding, and thereby provide a good harvest. Every water channel we re-excavate, we provide good irrigation facilities to that area, which in its turn help in growing more food and to improve the health condition of the people and thus make them more healthy and wealthy. In such useful adventures of great national importance and value I appeal for the active co-operation and fullest support of the honourable members of all sections in this House. I do believe that we can achieve real success in this respect only if we realise the seriousness of the problem and unitedly strive for it. A comprehensive scheme for the whole province is to be drawn up and we should put all our heads together for the purpose. At present Government spends about one crore of rupees for the embankments. After the great Damodar flood in 1943 Government spent over Rs.30 lakhs for immediate repairs and about 2 crores of rupees for the new construction of the embankments besides the costs of relief and rehabilitation. But, Sir, the embankments are but the make-shift arrangements which for the time being save the country from inundation but it is never a permanent remedy. In many cases owing to continued silt deposits the level of the river-bed is in fact higher than the level of the countryside. So in a heavy flood even if a portion of the embankment gives way then the whole area is inundated resulting in a great havoc. The real remedy lies not in the maintenance and construction of embankments but in improving the water channels and in execution on proper lines the well-planned irrigation schemes. Prevention is no doubt better than cure. The irrigation projects are guaranteed remedies to remove many of our present miseries. Sir, before I go into the details of the budget, I should like to say a few words about the main problems which we are called upon to deal with. One essential distinctive feature which marks out Bengal from the rest of India is that Bengal is a riverine province watered by the mighty rivers which have their origin outside the province. These mighty rivers carry a vast volume of silt which is deposited in course of the journey to the sea. The volume of the silt has helped to build the deltaic portion of the province and the deltaic region has its own peculiar problems. The obvious solution of all these lies in the conservation of the monsoon rainfall and its controlled release and distribution and the river conservancy which again has an inter-provincial aspect. Thus the solution we have got to work out calls for a very careful and detailed investigation from the various points of view and for a careful co-ordination of the various activities of various nation-building departments of this Government and of other Governments.

Our limited financial resources, excessive labour rates, prohibitive price of materials, inadequate supply of tools, plants and materials, and last but not the least the dearth of technical staff all combined to very greatly retard our progress and activities. The Government of India pays $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost for projects under the Grow More Food scheme. I submit each and every scheme—minor, medium and major is a project in favour of the "Grow More Food" Scheme. There are areas where there is water, water everywhere, no land to plough. Sir, many instances are known where either by an embankment or by a drainage channel a large area can be rendered as good agricultural lands. "Grow More Food" Campaign in Bengal can be made truly successful through irrigation projects.

I shall now proceed to discuss the broad features of our plan and programme. In spite of the limitations which I have already mentioned, we have in our programme the great Damodar Multi-purpose Project originally formulated by the Burdwan Committee with Maharajadhiraj Sir U. C. Mahtab of Burdwan as Chairman, the rough estimated cost of which stands at Rs.55 crores. The scheme envisages flood protection, irrigation facilities for about 8 lakh acres and electric power of about 300,000 k.w. which would be available.

After providing for the irrigation requirements of approximately 2,250 cusecs during the dry season a flow of about 2,000 cusecs would be available in the lower Damodar river and a portion of this flow may be utilised for water-supply purposes. In fact it is based on the Tennessey Valley Authority project modified to suit our purpose.

The navigation scheme would establish navigation facilities between Calcutta and the Coalfields.

The question of financial allocations between the Governments of India, Bengal and Bihar as also certain other questions, e.g., setting up of a machinery for execution and thereafter, administration of the scheme now await final settlement. The entire cost will be met from a loan which will be raised by the Centre. It is expected to be a very paying and self-supporting concern. I hope it will be possible for me to come before the House with a detailed account of this scheme in no distant future.

Another major scheme which has been put in hand is the Mor Irrigation project which, when completed, is expected to command an area of 1,240 square miles. The scheme consists of two parts. Part I relates to the construction of a dam at Messanjore in the district of Santal Parganas in the province of Bihar and Part II provides for the construction of a barrage and a canal system within the province of Bengal. While work on Part II of the scheme estimated to cost Rs.4,38,00,000 has been started, it has not been possible to take up Part I of the scheme, as the necessary permission of the Government of Bihar has not yet been received. The matter is under negotiation with them.

The net irrigable area commanded by Part II of the project is expected to be 595,000 acres in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad and Burdwan. The scheme will be a productive one.

Another important scheme which I must mention is the proposed Teesta Dam and Barrage project. It holds out an attractive prospect. Besides control of flood and irrigation facilities, the scheme is expected to provide for generation of hydro-electric power for industrial and other developments. The scheme also includes the resuscitation of most of the principal rivers of North Bengal. Investigations in connection with the scheme are already in progress and a sum of Rs.23,00,000 for the purpose has been provided in the budget.

The question of improving the decadent areas of the Central Bengal has also been under the serious consideration of the Department. Attempt at improvement of one isolated river or the other will not produce the desired effect. Experience has shown that the problem of the area does not admit of any piecemeal treatment. A comprehensive scheme is necessary. With this object in view a plan for the construction of a barrage across the Ganges river is under contemplation. The investigation work is in progress.

Necessary data are also being collected for the preparation of major multi-purpose schemes in East Bengal, such as the Gumti, the Someswari, and the Karnafuli Projects in the districts of Tippera, Mymensingh and Chittagong, respectively. The Brahmaputra Barrage scheme is another important project which is receiving the most earnest attention of the department. A special division with subdivisions thereunder has been opened for this purpose. The projects will combine irrigation, flood control and generation of hydro-electricity. Estimates have been prepared for undertaking contour survey of the North-Eastern part of the Mymensingh district and of the Feni subdivision of the Noakhali district. Steps have also been taken for the collection of hydraulic data of the principal rivers of the Dacca and Chittagong divisions.

Drainage congestion in the areas in the suburb of Calcutta has become almost an annual occurrence. Moreover, the City of Calcutta is bound to expand far beyond its present limits. It is therefore necessary that the vast water-logged areas around Calcutta must be reclaimed at an early

date. But the problem of water-logging in the area, as many of you know, is a very intricate one. With the object of tackling the problem efficiently and of devising a comprehensive scheme for removal of drainage difficulty, it has been decided to prepare a "Master Drainage Plan" so that the problem can be solved satisfactorily. For this purpose a sum of Rs.3 lakhs has been provided in the budget.

You will all agree, Sir, that it is not always safe and proper to launch on a scheme, particularly a costly scheme without being assured of its results. It is necessary therefore to have model experiments of a scheme carried out in a well-equipped and modern laboratory of special type before actually executing a costly scheme. With this end in view, we have already established a River Research Institute at Baranagar and we propose to expand it into a more commodious and well-equipped laboratory. For this a sum of Rs.4,24,000 has been provided in the budget.

Besides these, a number of development schemes—Irrigation, Drainage and Planning—are proposed to be taken up during the next year and provisions have been made for them.

Besides the major Irrigation projects, 973 smaller Irrigation projects involving a total cost of about Rs.40 lakhs have been undertaken in all the different districts. Some of the projects have been completed while others are in progress. Up-to-date more than Rs.30 lakhs have been spent. In addition to this, 199 projects under the "Grow More Food" Schemes have also been undertaken at a cost of about Rs.1,40,60,000. By these schemes about 8 lakhs of acres of lands will be benefited and irrigated and the increased yield is expected to be about 50 lakhs of maunds of foodgrains.

Thus all our major irrigation schemes are, in fact, multi-purpose schemes which will improve the communication facilities by making the rivers navigable, guarantee proper irrigation facilities which in its turn will guarantee the production of foodgrains every year without a failure and very greatly improve our food problem and famine will be a thing of the past. It will immensely improve the health condition of the people and malaria will greatly disappear and the floods instead of creating a havoc will be fully utilised for useful purposes. Lastly, the water of the mighty rivers instead of being wasted by flowing down to the sea will be utilised for generating power for electrifying the entire province with cheap electricity and for developing our industries. Thus it will go a great way in making the whole nation healthy and prosperous.

Sir, in such an endeavour of such a great potentiality and of great national value and importance, I appeal for the help and co-operation of all sections of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: As to how the debate will be conducted. I expressed my views the other day that after the cut motions are moved and supported by speeches by the members in whose names the cut motions stand, the Government side or members of any other group may speak on them. I have revised my opinion now. I think the best course would be to move all the cut motions at the beginning and then one speaker from this side (left) and another speaker from that side (right) should speak. That will create more interest and in my opinion that will be a better arrangement. So I will call upon the members in whose names the cut motions stand to move their motions without any speech.

MR. ANNADA PRASAD MANDAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about Damodar Canal, enhancement of its tax and the process of realization of the said tax.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the delay in pushing forward the Mor Reservoir Project in the district of Birbhum.

Mr. SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to improve the condition of the rivers Bhagirathi and Jellanghi in the district of Murshidabad.

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government for working out suitable irrigation schemes for North Bengal.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to implement the schemes provided in the Budget.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about immediate necessity of resuscitation of the rivers Sitallakhyia, Buriganga, Dhaleswari, Brahmaputra and Bangsai in the district of Dacca and such other silted up rivers and waterways of Bengal.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order, Sir. I hope you will be good enough to explain your decision a little further. If an honourable member on this side speaks to his cut motion, is it the intention that an honourable member on the other side will then speak against that cut motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not that, I do not know what the honourable members will say in their speeches—whether for or against. Any member irrespective of his party affiliation may support if he wants to; I do not know his mind.

Mr. A. F. STARK: One other point, Sir. If there be any speakers on this side who wish to speak generally on the demand, can they speak at the end or will they have to speak in between the cut motions?

Mr. SPEAKER: They may speak in between the cut motions or at any time they like.

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to make an early comprehensive survey of rivers and drainage system of West Bengal.

Mr. ANNADA PRASAD MONDAL : মানবীর সীকার বহোদর, আমি লামোর ক্যামেল লমডে বই একটি কথা বলতে চাই। আমি লামোর ক্যামেলের উৎপত্তি লমডে ও পূর্বে লামেলের লমডা কি ছিল সেই কথা আপনাদের কাছে বর্ণনা করব।

East India Companyর আমলে ১৭৭১ খ্রীস্টাব্দে বঙ্গের ৫০ হাজার টাকা বর্ডমানের রাজার নিকট হতে নেওয়া হত লামেলের ধীর নির্মাণের জন্য এবং ঐ টাকা বর্ডমানের রাজার রাজস্ব হতে বাস নেওয়া হতো। ১৭৮৩ খ্রীস্টাব্দে ঐ টাকা বাড়িয়ে ৬০ হাজার ১ টাকা করা হয় এবং পূর্ণবৎ রাজস্ব হতে বাস নেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা লমবৎ থাকে। বর্ডমানের রাজা নিজ ব্যবসার লামেলের ধীর ধীরেতে, ক্যামেল পরিষ্কার করতেন, লামেলের বোহালা কেটে লিভেন এবং এটা লমেলের প্রয়োজনীয় বলে জানতে লেনের লোকেস ও বখালদা লামো হ'ত। জামদার বর্ডমানের রাজা আর এ ভাষা লিভের কাছে রাখতে চাইলেন না এবং পদার্থ-বৈজ্ঞানিক লিভেই এ লামিল লিভে লিভি

অনুলোভ করিলেন। ভবন হতে গভর্ণমেন্ট লাইব্রেরির দ্বার সিঁচ হইতে গিলেন এবং বর্ডমানের রাজ্যের বিকট হতে ৬০ হাজার ১ টাকা আদায় করতে লাগলেন। এই অবস্থার কিছুদিন সোয়া পর দেখা গেল যে বর্ডমান একদিন পশাপাশা ছিল, যে বর্ডমানের জন্য কত লোক বলেছে “Burdwan is the most productive in Bengal and most productive throughout the whole of Hindusthan” এর কারণ নির্দেশ করতে গিয়ে কেহ কেহ বলেছেন

“It was the overflow irrigation system of the Damodar with its connected streams and waterways on both sides which make Burdwan such fertile, wealthy and prosperous land”.

গভর্ণমেন্ট ৬০ হাজার ১ টাকা দিতে লাগলেন বটে, কিন্তু সেপের উর্জু বা পক্তি বা লাইব্রেরির বাঁধের দিকে তেমন নজর দিলেন না, লোকের আর কবে বেড়ে লাগল। লাইব্রেরির যে সব বোহাদা পুর্ণ কেটে বেওয়া হোত এবং বর্ডমানের নদী নালা, বেহলা, কাণা পুত্ৰি কুত্র নদীর মধ্যে লাইব্রেরির জলপ্রোত বর্ডমান জেলায় প্রায় সর্পুত্র, হপলী জেলায় অনেক অংশ এবং হাওড়ায়ও কিছু দান প্রাপ্তি করে ঐ সব জলসে ত্রুণিক পশা-পাশালা করে তুলত, নুতন ব্যবহার আর তেমন হোল না। যে বর্ডমানে বিদ্যাপ্রতি ১০/১২ বৎসর হয়েছিল এবং নানা রকম কল উৎপন্ন হয়েছিল, যে বর্ডমানে এককালে সর্বাংশে দান ছিল, লোকে যেখানে বানু পরিবর্তনের জন্য বেত, সেই বর্ডমানের আত্ম এমন অবস্থা হয়েছিল যে বিদ্যাপ্রতি ৫১৭ বৎসর বেশী কল হয় না, মুক্তিক লেগেই আছে, লাইব্রেরির বেশ উজাড় হয়ে যাচ্ছে, লোক জীব জগৎ হয়ে পড়েছে।

সোয়া বর্ডমানের আত্ম এমন অবস্থা হয়েছিল তবু বিদেশী পাসকের জান হোল না—তাদের পোষণ ঠিক একইভাবে চলছে।

১৯০৯ সালে লাইব্রেরি ক্যানেল বার করে দেবার কথা হয় এবং Grand Trunk Road এর কিছু উন্নতি করা হয়। Lord Bentinck বলেছিলেন যে, এই লাইব্রেরির দুবাবসা করতে পারলে বর্ডমান হতে লাইব্রেরি ডাঙার বেড়ে পারে এবং সেপের কৃষি-সম্পদ বাড়িয়ে সেপের শ্রীষ্টি সাধন করা বেড়ে পারে। এই সব গভর্ণ-মেন্ট Irrigation এর সুবিধার জন্য ক্যানেলের কাজ আরম্ভ করেন এবং ১ লক্ষ ৩৪ হাজার টাকা ক্যানেলের জন্য ব্যয় করা হয় এবং ৩১১০ টাকা হতে ৪৮ টাকা হারে কর বার্ষিক করে contract বেওয়া হয় এবং পরে এই কর ৪৮ টাকা হতে ৪১১০ করা হয়। ১৯৩৫ সালে Development Act তৈরী হওয়ার পর কর বার্ষিক নিয়ম করা হয় যে ক্যানেলের খরচা সব তুলে বেওয়া হবে তবে একবারে নয় ক্রমে ক্রমে এবং কোন অবস্থাতেই খরচের বেশী বেওয়া হবে না। এই Act এর একটি provision ছিল যে কোন অবস্থাতে ৪১১০ টাকার বেশী কর বার্ষিক করা হবে না। এই provisionটা আপনাদের পড়ে পোনাচি—

“Provided that in respect of the Damodar, Eden and Bakreswar canals such sum shall not exceed the amount prescribed to meet the annual cost as determined by the local Government of maintenance and supervision and of collection of the improvement levy.”

এই Section ৫ ১২টি provision ছিল। ১৯৩৫-৩৬ সালে একবারে সর্বাংশে কর বার্ষিক করা হ’ল ৪১১০ টাকা। প্রজাতি যার আপত্তি তুললো, ১৯৩৬-৩৭ সালে লাইব্রেরি ক্যানেল-আলোচন হ’ল। অবস্থা আরও খারাপ হতে লাগল। বেশী কর বার্ষিক করার কলে চারিদিকে ঝড়-তুর্ভু আলোচন চলতে লাগল। প্রজাতি তাদের অকমতায় আলোচন শুরু করল। সেবে এমন অবস্থা পীড়াল যে, ক্যানেল কর আর আদায় করা যায় না। ভবন popular Government enquiry করতে লাগলেন এবং ক্যানেল কর ২১১/০ বার্ষিক করতে মন্ব করলেন। উল্লাসিত Revenue Minister Sir Bejoy Prasad Sinha Roy বোষণা করলেন যে ক্যানেল কর পুতি একবে ২১১/০ বার্ষিক করা হোল এবং কোন অবস্থাতেই এর বেশী বেওয়া হবে না। কিন্তু মুন্ডের মন্ব অনেক প্রজাতি আছে ১/১ হারে ক্যানেল কর আদায় করা হয়েছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is over.

Mr. ANNADA PRASAD MONDAL : আর এক মিনিট মন্ব বিন, ম্যার এখন এই কর ১/১ টাকা হতে ৪১১০ করা হয়েছে। গত বৎসরে ১১০ করা হয়েছিল, কিন্তু এক বৎসর পরে এই বৎসর হতে আবার ৪১১০ বার্ষিক করা হয়েছে। প্রজাতি কর দিতে আপত্তি করলে পুলিশ ওঠা চালাচ্ছে, পীড়িত অত্যাচার করছে—বন্বের ওঠা ও ওঠাতে এবং লাইব্রেরি আবারও বন্ব লোক আহত হয়েছে।

এতগুলি লোকের পৃষ্ঠপোষকতায় একদিন agitation-এর রূপ দিয়ে আত্মপ্রকাশ করবেই, তখন জাতি-ঐক্যের ভেতর প্রকাশই সম্ভব হবে না। পর্ভবক্ট কালেক্টর দ্বারা এক ভিতে পাবে, কিন্তু abnormal কন-গ্রীসী করে জোর করে আশার করতে পারে না।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : On a point of order, বাদীর শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমি একটি প্রশ্ন করছি। পর্ভবক্ট পক্ষের দ্বারা “কাট মোশন” দিয়েছিলেন তাঁদের কোন “কাট মোশন” এখানে উপস্থিত করবেন না—এর দ্বারা কি আশা করে নেবে যে তাঁদের সমস্ত “কাট মোশন” দাবতুর করা হয়েছে এবং এই সব “কাট মোশনের” কোন গুরুত্ব স্বীকার করা হবে না? এবং আর একটি প্রশ্ন যে, ঐ পক্ষ থেকে দ্বারা বক্তৃতা করবেন তাঁদের বক্তৃতা তাঁদের “কাট মোশনের” ব্যাপারেই হবেই আশা থাকবে না। তাঁদের সাধারণভাবে আবেদন করতে অনুমতি দেওয়া হবে?

Mr. SPEAKER: Notices of cut motions are received and these are printed in a consolidated book. Selections are made by different parties and different members as to whether they want to press any particular cut motion. A large number of members do not press cut motions but speak on cut motions. Members who move cut motions will try to confine themselves to the subject matter of the cut motions as far as practicable but if any member wants to make any remark he is entitled to do so.

Mr. ABDUL HANNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the constituency I represent is Meherpur. Though very near Calcutta it is far away from modern civilisation and culture. The present amenities of the world have been denied there. There is no rail nor any navigable river nor any good road in the subdivision. There are three rivers of which one is dead and two are dying. The river Bhairab which runs through the centre of my constituency is now a dead river. During the time when the late lamented Maharaja Khaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur of Nadia was a member of the Executive Council of the Government of Bengal he managed to sanction certain amount for excavation of the silted up mouth of the Bhairab and for joining it with the Jalangi. As a result there was improvement of a large part of the subdivision. But after that Government did not spend a single farthing towards the upkeep of the canal between the Bhairab and the Jalangi and the mouth of the Bhairab became again silted up and is being cultivated. The river is now full of water hyacinth and has become sources of malaria. The two other rivers which have been dying are Mathabhangu and Jalangi. The attention of the Government was drawn times without number but the Government is determined to turn deaf ears. There are many *bils* and *dobas* in the subdivision full of water hyacinth with stagnant water without any outlet. These have become the abode of mosquitoes carrying germs of malaria among the ill-fed poor people of the subdivision. The Government is busy in spending lots of money towards Civil Supply Department but they are callous and indifferent to this very important side. Owing to the dying condition of the rivers the business of the subdivision has become standstill. Some amount though small is sanctioned every year for the development of the rural area but those who claim to be representatives of the constituency are not consulted as to where the works should be done. Official favouritism prevails there.

Government speaks of grow more food but they shut their eyes to thousands and thousands of acres of land lying uncultivated in *bils* and *dobas* for want of outlet. They are going to acquire waste lands but they are not paying any attention to these things.

The present budget is hopelessly disappointing in this respect. Government is responsible for so many lives dying of malaria and other epidemic diseases in the subdivision.

For want of good roads and rivers trade has become a thing of the past. People cannot make two ends meet regularly. I draw the attention of the Government not to play with the fate of 350,000 of the subdivision nor to become indifferent to the well-being of those people.

Mr. MINIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বানদীর নদী বহানর তাঁর নদী উপস্থিত করতে গিয়ে ভবিষ্যতে বাংলার Irrigation লব্ধে কাল্পনিক নদীন চিত্র একেছেন। কিন্তু এই চিত্র আমাদের মনে বিশ্লেষণ আশার সন্ধান করতে পারেনি। (VOICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PARTY BENCHES: আহা!) তার প্রধান কারণ হচ্ছে যে পশ্চিম বাংলার লোক অন্তরে অন্তরে এই বাস্তবসত্য অনুভব করে যে পশ্চিম বাংলার উন্নতির কাজে বর্তমান বাংলা সরকার তত্ব নেই। তাই নতুন নতুন রকম অনিচ্ছুক। পশ্চিম বাংলাকে পূর্ণ পাকিস্তানের হাডকাঠে জবাই করার জন্য আরোহণ তিনে তিনে চলাচ্ছে এবং পশ্চিম বাংলার অর্থ, পশ্চিম বাংলার সম্পদ সম্পূর্ণরূপে পূর্ণ পাকিস্তানের সুদৃষ্টির কাজে নিয়োজিত করা হচ্ছে। পশ্চিম বাংলা সকল দিক দিয়ে সম্পূর্ণ উপেক্ষিত। এই অনুভূতির একটি তীব্র প্রকাশ হলো এই যে গত বৎসর বাজেটে Tank improvement বাবদ যে টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছিল হঠাৎ একদিন জানা গেল যে Bengal Government এই Tank improvement এর কাজ সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ করে দিয়েছেন। ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা এই বাবদ বরাদ্দ ছিল। তার মধ্যে মাত্র ১৯ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করার পরে Assemblyকে না জানিয়ে বাংলার জনসাধারণের কোন মতামত না নিয়ে পশ্চিম বাংলার সুবিধা সাধন করার জন্য সমস্ত কাজ একেবারে বন্ধ করে দেওয়ার চক্রান্ত জারী হয়েছে। বানদীর নদী বহানর মোর জীন (Mor Irrigation Project) কার্যকরী করার জন্য দুই বৈদেশী ঋণ নিয়েছেন। এই ঋণ আশুপসেই কাজ হবে না। তত্ব কথাকে চিড়ে কখনও ভিজতে পারে না। এই কাজ পরিচালনার জন্য যে আনুষ্ঠানিক দরকার, যে কর্তৃত্বপত্রাদি প্রকার, সে কর্তৃত্বপত্রতা, সে প্রচেষ্টা এই বহিনওলীর আছে বলে আমরা কোন পরিচয় পাইনি। যদি আমরা একটি লম্বা করি তা হলে দেখতে পাবো যে Mor Project সত্যিকার কাজ এতটুকু অগ্রসর হয়নি। এই জীন অতি দীর্ঘ বিস্তারিত। সেনী এবং বিদেশী বিশেষজ্ঞদের এই জীন লব্ধে অভিন্ন এই যে এই জীন কার্যকরী হ'লে পশ্চিম বাংলার বীরভূম ও মুন্সিগঞ্জ জেলার মাঠে মাঠে সোনার ফসল ফলবে। পশ্চিম বাংলার আর দুর্ভিক্ষ হ'বে না। বার মাস সকল রকমের ফসল এই অঞ্চলে উৎপন্ন হ'তে পারবে। বাংলা দেশকে যে সমস্ত ফসলের জন্য অন্যান্য দেশের উপর নির্ভর করে থাকতে হয়, সেসব সরিষা, গম, মটর, নানাশুকার তরিতরকারী এবং নানা রকম ডাল, সে সমস্ত ফসল বীরভূম, মুন্সিগঞ্জের মাঠে মাঠে শ্রুত পথমাগে উৎপন্ন হ'তে পারবে। এই সমস্ত জেলাগুলি জলাভায়ে শুকনো। বৎসরে ৩০ থেকে ৩৫ ইঞ্চির বেশী বৃষ্টিপাত হয় না অথচ এই জেলাগুলির উপর দিয়ে বৌদ্রাঙ্গী নদীর অশ্রু জলধারা বয়ে যায়। সে জলধারাকে যদি বর্তমান বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়ে ক্যানাল মারফৎ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা যায়, তবে যে ফসল উৎপন্ন হ'তে পারে সে ফসলধারা সারা বাংলার অভাব বৈশিষ্ট্যে পাবে। বাংলার বহিনওলী এই কাজকে কার্যকরী করার জন্য এ পর্যন্ত লোকসেবান ও ছেলোবোর বড় সাহায্য কিছু কাজ শুরু করেছেন। কিন্তু আসল কাজ এখনও সম্পূর্ণরকম বাকী রয়েছে। বিহার গভর্নমেন্টের সাথে পরামর্শ করে বীমা করতে না পারলে এই মোর জীন কখনও সফল হ'তে পারে না। বাংলার বহিনওলী এ পর্যন্ত বিহার গভর্নমেন্টের সাথে কোন বীমাসংসার উপস্থিত হ'তে পারেন নাই। বিহারের সাথে আলোচনা বৈঠকে বাংলার বহিনওলী কতবার উপস্থিত হ'তে পেরেছেন সে কথা আমরা জানতে চাই। এই জীন কার্যকরী করার জন্য Central Government বুজহস্তে টাকা নিতে প্রস্তুত। এই জীবের বাবদ গত বৎসর ৭০ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছিল। তার মধ্যে এই অধোগা ও অপলার্ক বহিনওলী মাত্র ৪৮ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করতে পেরেছেন। বাকী টাকা খরচ করতে পারেন নাই। সে টাকা হাতে নিয়ে Central Government বুজ হস্তে প্রত্যর্জন। আবার এই কাজের জন্য এই বৎসরের বাজেটেও ১ কোটি ৪৮ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। আমরা জানি না এই টাকা কিভাবে ব্যয় করা হ'বে। যদি বহিনওলী এই ব্যাপারে সত্য সত্যই sincere হন তা হলে তাঁদের প্রাণপণ করে জনসাধারণের সর্বজন নিয়ে এই কাজ কার্যকরী করার জন্য চেষ্টা করা উচিত। (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION: হায় যে দুঃখা!) বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট Central এবং বিহার Government এর সঙ্গে অকাজে কোন্দল করতে চান, কিন্তু তাঁদের উচিত এই দুই গভর্নমেন্টের সঙ্গে বন্ধু করে Mor Project মাতে কার্যকরী হয় যে ব্যবস্থা করা। আমরা তাই বহিনওলীর কাঁকা কথাকে তুলতে মোটেই প্রস্তুত নই। এই মোর জীন যদি সত্য সত্যই কার্যকরী হয় তা হলে তত্ব যে চাষের দিক দিয়ে পশ্চিম বাংলা বেঁচে যাবে তা নয়, সেই সাথে সমস্ত বিলুপ্তপ্রায় উৎপন্ন হ'বে। বাহাশ্রম এক পরস্য দুই পরস্য ইটনি সন্ন্যাসী হলে বিশপ জগন্দের নৃদ সিংহ-নন্দা বুলে-বেলে। এত বড় কৃষি ও বিলম্বের সত্য্যাতা থাকা সত্ত্বেও বহিনওলী এত দিলের একটি scheme এত কালেও কার্যকরী করে উঠতে পারলেন না। একটি scheme প্রস্তুত হয়েছে সেটা দিয়ে আলোচনা এবং কিছু অর্থ প্রদান হয়েছে। এখন কিছুদিন পর হয়ত এই Scheme abandon হতেও পড়বে বেন tank improvement এর বৈশিষ্ট্য হ'বে। এতে যে টাকা খরচ করা হ'চ্ছে সে টাকা এখন কেবল কর্তৃত্ব পোষণের জন্যই খরচ হ'চ্ছে। বুজের সময়ের যে প্রাণ মোটর ও কলকল পড়ে ছিল

সে সব পুঁজি বোঝালকর কিনে বীরভূমে আনানী করা হ'চ্ছে। কাজে লাগবে কি না লাগবে সে সবত আনব। কিন্তু জানি না। আর, বোর ভীম সবচেয়ে জুঁ লতা চট্কা কথা বলে লাভ কি? বাংলার বহিঃদেশী জোনের মাঝে এ কথা বলতে পারেন কি যে বোর ভীম নিচেরই কার্যকরী কথা হ'বে? যে কাজের পক্ষে কোন বাধা নেই, সবত বাধাই অভিজ্ঞতা হয়েছে, এমন কাজে লাগলেই হয়। বোর scheme সমস্ত আবার দু' মত যে বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট কোন কাজই করছেন না, বাত একপাল কর্তব্যী পুঁজিছেন আর বুকের সববের কিছু পুঁজি বাটিকাটা বোরি ও তিনিপত্র কিনে বীরভূমে জরাজেঁ করেছেন। এ আবার নিজের বাড়িগত বত নয়। বিদ্যোদী-দলের পক্ষথেকে এ কথা বলতে পারি যে যদি বোর ভীম সত্য সত্যই কার্যকরী করার ইচ্ছা থাকে তা হ'লে এই সংক্রান্ত সবত সমস্যা সমাধান করার জন্য কোনর বেঁধে চেষ্টা করতে হবে। পুঁজি সমস্যা হ'চ্ছে যে সবত জনসাধারণ উদ্যত হ'বে সে সবত লোককে কোথায় বদবাসের জায়গা দেওয়া যেতে পারে। যদি বোর ভীম কার্যকরী করতে হয় তা হ'লে অভিজ্ঞ Engineer নিযুক্ত করতে হ'বে। বর্তমানে যে সবত Engineer, overseer বোর ভীম সংক্রান্ত কাজ করছেন তাঁদের একত Dam constructionএর কোন অভিজ্ঞতা নেই। এ আবার নিজের কথা নয়, এ তাঁদেরই নিজেদের কথা। সেই সবত পোকের হাতে Dam constructionএর কাজ যদি ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয় তা হ'লে সে ড্যাম হয়ত কোন রকমে তৈরী হ'রে যাবে, কিন্তু কোথাও কোন যারায়ক গমত বা ক্রনি থেকে যাবে কিনা সে সবচেয়ে পূর্ণ বিশৃঙ্খল। যে সবত এলাকার চায়ের হয়ত সুবিধা হ'ত তাও হয়ত হ'বে না—এদিকে ট্যাক্সের বোঝা চাপবে নির্ভরভাবে। Hydro-electric শক্তি হয়তো তৈরীই হবে না, আবার মনে হয় এই সব ব্যাপারের নিখুঁত ব্যবস্থা হওয়া উচিত এবং বিশেষ Engineer নিযুক্ত করা দরকার। বিশেষী ইউক বাইরের লোক ইউক বা দেশী ইউক জাতের কিছু আসে যায় না এমন সব contractor নিযুক্ত করতে হ'বে যারা অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে সুযোগ্য তত্ত্বাবধানে কার্খা সমাধা করতে পারবে। সত্য সত্যই যদি বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের এই কাজ হাসিল করার জন্য sincerely থাকে তা হ'লে এই রকম contractorদের কার্খাভার দেওয়া উচিত যারা একদিনও বিলম্ব না করে কাজ সমাধা করে দিতে পারবে। আর তা নাহ'লে যদি contractor এর পাকেন্দ্রীয় জন্য এক বন্দব দেবী হ'বে যার তা হ'লে এই এক বৎসরে ফসলের যে ক্ষতি হ'বে তাই বলা কোটি কোটি টাকা। এই scheme কার্যকরী হ'লে বছর বছর কোটি কোটি টাকার ফসল উৎপাদ হ'তে পারে। জাপা করি আমাদের বহী বরাদ্দের তরপ রাখছেন তিনি যে বহিঃদেশীতে ভড়িত সেখানে কেবল তিনিই একমাত্র বর্ধহিত্ব জাভেন। তাঁর সেখানে যে কি position দেটা আবার সেরতে ও জানতে চাই।

Mr. NAWAJESH AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a privilege and with considerable concern that I rise to take part in today's discussion on irrigation.

Sir, the Irrigation Department is a very happy department. It is a department which has immortalised most of our rulers. We have Ronaldshay Dredger, Anderson Weir, Bejoy Cut, Ghuznavi Cut, and so on and so forth. But it is a question before us what amount of good we have received from them. These have proved unproductive taxation on the provincial exchequer.

Sir, as far as this department is concerned I see it presents a budget which is most unsatisfactory. The amount earmarked for Irrigation, Embankment and Drainage in this year's budget is extremely insufficient and insignificant for a vast province like Bengal with innumerable rivers and waterways which are dying or dead. They are to be reclaimed and a large number of bunds are required for protecting the people against floods.

Sir, we know that our Government has started the "Grow More Food" Campaign throughout the country to encourage the people of this province to grow more crops, and discourage them to keep cultivable lands fallow with an aim in view to make Bengal independent.

Sir, our Government have forgotten that to make this programme a success the land must be made fit for cultivation. Rivers, which were in flow, are now dying or dead, canals silted up, for want of reclamation lands are left uncared for. Generally the people of the country have to depend on rain for agriculture; when rains fail the agriculture of this province fails. Result being this, Sir, I urge this point that the rivers, canals, khals should be reclaimed so that water-logged lands may turn fit for agriculture, and

during rain, water may get outlet for flowing downwards. In Nadia district most of the rivers, namely, Bhairab, Kumar, Jamuna, Matabhanga Ichamati, Hangar are in dying conditions. Bhairab, Kumar, Jamuna in police-station Highat, Hangar in Ranaghat police-station are dead or become permanent sources of various diseases. If these rivers are reclaimed, the lands on both sides of them may produce best crops and moreover stagnant water may get outlet. We have heard that there was a scheme to reclaim Jamuna but alas that scheme has up to this time not been materialised.

Sir, in answer to my question regarding Bejoy and Gaznavi cuts the Hon'ble Minister has said that there is a Central Bengal river scheme before the Government and these two cuts will be taken up when the scheme will be materialised, but the time is unknown. According to the Hon'ble Minister's answer I am to go to my constituency and advise the poor people to wait for better and bright days which the Government have arranged for them.

Sir, may I request the Hon'ble Minister on his way to Darjeeling to see the condition of the rivers on both sides. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister in the meantime what the people will do when during rainy season the cultivated land on both sides of rivers and khals is overflooded with rain water and gets water-logged and the new standing crop is damaged and thereby great loss is sustained by the cultivators. I request the Hon'ble Minister to take up the work and thereby save the people.

Sir, in conclusion, I may add that there was a scheme last year for some minor irrigation works in the Nadia district and Rs.3,000 was sanctioned for that purpose but the work was taken up in the month of February with definite instructions to execute the work within a month. But we find that practically no work was done and still some money was spent. We do not know how the money was spent. I request the Hon'ble Minister to see that the revenue of this province may not be spent in this way without resulting in any good to the people of this country.

MR. SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, in moving this motion I would like to say that I do not know whether the promises made are sincere, but I find that the Government spends a huge amount in irrigation. We are in the dark as to the purpose and utility of this expenditure. We now hear of new projects for excavating canals such as the Mor scheme, Teesta Valley Scheme and other projects and plans, but the natural canals are being neglected. The rivers Bhagirathi and Jallanghi are the two main branches of the Ganges and those original channels are dying out. The Nadia river division is there mainly to look after these rivers. But in spite of all this they are gradually dying out. Sir, these rivers were once navigable throughout the year, but now-a-days people hardly require any ferry boat to cross them. These are the two main streams in Western Bengal over whose banks all the prosperous towns and villages of West Bengal which can boast of past heritage of culture and civilisation and trade and commerce grew and flourished. But their conditions have become deplorable. During 9 months in the year they are completely cut off from their sources and huge shoals are formed barring all flow of current.

Sir, the attention of the Government was sought to be drawn from time to time and memorials were submitted to Their Excellencies but in vain. Lord Ronaldshay, once the Governor of Bengal, in reply to a memorial submitted, told the people of Murshidabad that it would not be possible to improve the condition of these rivers, nature alone would help them and left them to their fate.

After the construction of the Hardinge Bridge there has been a tendency of the Ganges to bypass the bridge and once more flow through its old channel but we may have to wait for decades before Nature turns her attention and the point for our consideration is whether it is not possible to effect any permanent improvement of these rivers by human action. To be able

to utilise these natural advantages it is necessary to improve the carrying capacities of these channels and provide suitable outlets and distributary channels of adequate capacity and other facilities for spill over the countryside without let or hindrance as far as possible. Maintenance of embankments for cultivating the low lands or erecting of railway bunds prevented free flow and forced these rivers to deposit silts in the riverbeds instead of in the spill areas, reduced the velocity of flood water and led to their deterioration.

The dry-weather flow is constantly diminishing and as a consequence except during the high floods they are reduced to stagnant pools—a good breeding ground for mosquitos which carry death and destruction to thousands of inhabitants every year.

In the opinion of experts the principal causes of deterioration are mainly these—

- (1) Deforestation of the catchment basins both in the offtake and deltaic regions.
- (2) Large drawing of water by the canal system in the upper reaches of the river for purposes of irrigation.
- (3) Erection of embankments in the spill areas and consequent deposit of silt in the riverbeds which is raising the beds of the rivers and is leading to the formation of huge shoals at their offtakes which affect their dry-weather flow.

The remedies suggested are—

- (1) Control of catchment basins. They should not be deforested or leased out for the purposes of grazing and habitation.
- (2) Embankments should not be allowed to be raised at the sweet will of the owner of the soil and there should be more outlets in the Railway bunds.

Sir, there must be an inter-provincial body to control the river system and there must be co-ordination between several provinces and states as the main stream the Ganges flows through them and a river cannot be treated piecemeal. This gift of nature should not be allowed to be monopolised but should be equally distributed amongst all the riparian owners. Sir, it is a matter of regret that schemes have been drawn up by Government in the past with the help of experts but all these now rest in the sacred archives of the Government. I would enquire of the Ministry as what had become of the—

- (1) fate of the suggestions put forward by Mr. Willcox, the Engineer of Nile Valley fame;
- (2) where is the South-West Bengal Drainage Scheme;
- (3) The River Training Laboratory started and sponsored by the last Ministry.

We are again hearing of another River Training Institute but we are afraid that with the change in the personnel this also would meet with the same fate. There should be a continuity. Such spasmodic and haphazard way of dealing with a problem of such a vast magnitude may be to the advantage of those who waste their time in reading and counting the waves, but it means ruin to the people of Bengal. It will be height of folly if the Government abandons all hope of improving the condition of these rivers. It will be disastrous not only to the towns and villages outlying on their banks but it will spell disaster on the part of Calcutta which is gradually

being silted up. It is high time that the Government should ~~set~~^{get} up to the suggestions of experts and try to utilise these natural resources by harnessing their energy and help in the creation of a healthier and happier Bengal.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation has placed before us a very ambitious catalogue of the proposed and current activities of the Government of Bengal. I certainly wish him God-speed in what he proposes to do in Bengal, and in fact after the introductory speech of the Hon'ble Minister very little is left for us to say. The Hon'ble Minister has referred only to one aspect in discussing the irrigation problems of Bengal, namely malaria, which he thinks can be prevented by proper irrigation work in Bengal. Sir, I want to point out that apart from prevention of malaria a theory so well propounded by Dr. Bentley, sometime Director of Public Health in Bengal, and another eminent person in India, Sir William Wilcox who spoke in the same strain about irrigation system in Bengal and agreed generally with the views of Dr. Bentley, there are other factors also which concern irrigation. Proper irrigation certainly enriches the soil and also provide fish in abundance for all, prevent congestion of the rivers and facilitate navigation. Sir, I quite realise that Bengal is not primarily an irrigation province like the U. P. Punjab, or Sind. In fact, when I went through the Budget I could not find a single productive work in the schemes of work proposed to be undertaken in 1947-48. Of course there are some development schemes which are expected to be taken up, as for instance, the Mor Reservoir Project. That only goes to show the difficulty of irrigation work in Bengal. In spite of that I realise that there are problems in the province akin to irrigation which have also got to be attended to with care; otherwise I am sure, Bengal will face a greater disaster than she had ever faced in the past. Sir, one of the honourable members who has spoken before me has complained that West Bengal is receiving step-motherly treatment from the Government of Bengal. Sir, without meaning any disrespect for my friend, I find from facts on paper that in fact the truth lies on the other side. The Hon'ble Minister who has enumerated all the proposed activities as well as the pending activities of the Government has referred to the Dumodar Reservoir Scheme. He has also referred to the contemplated scheme of the Government of having a barrage on the Ganges. I am sure all these projects will involve expenditure of crores of rupees. My honourable friend may have a grievance against any particular officer of the Department; if he is not competent enough he will not be able to execute works as efficiently as we all desire, but it cannot be said, after looking into the facts carefully, that West Bengal is really receiving a step-motherly treatment from the Government, far less is West Bengal being sacrificed at the alter of a Pakistani Government. I think these facts negative the charge levelled by my honourable friend. On the other hand, I will ask the honourable members on all sides of the House to look to what is happening in East Bengal. I can point out, Sir, without any fear of contradiction that there are about 1,700 or a little over 1,800 miles of embankment in Bengal. My honourable friend will certainly be amused to know that about 95 per cent. of the mileage lies in West Bengal and in East Bengal there is only the Gumti embankment which presents a problem before the Government of a very complicated nature. Much has been said on the floor of this House as well as outside about the Gumti embankment. There is one portion of the Gumti embankment which is considered to be the non-Government portion. The rush of flood is unfortunately always on the non-Government portion which is very very low. The result is that people, Hindus and Muslims, of about 300 square miles have to suffer from the ravages of the Gumti floods year in and year out. In spite of all efforts by members of all parties nothing tangible could be done about raising the level of the non-Government portion of the Gumti embankment. I may, in this connection, inform this House certainly the Government deserves every credit for having done this—that on the 19th

of March, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy passed orders for raising the non-Government portion of the Gumti embankment for which he deserves congratulations. I am afraid my friends in the Opposition may not like to congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister for this bold step, but I think, my friend, Mr. Dharendra Nath Dutt, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party, will certainly join with me in congratulating the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy.

Sir, there are other problems so far as East Bengal is concerned. I do not know what time has been allotted to me. Sir, in the district of Tippera many rivers have died. Resuscitation of Titas and Dakotia is very very necessary. When the Maharaja of Cossimbazar was Minister of Irrigation I and a member of the Upper House who is an eminent Congressman, and the Leader of the Opposition in that House, Mr. Kamini Kumar Dutt led a deputation to the Maharaja of Cossimbazar about re-excavation of the rivers Titas and Dakotia. Very encouraging promises were made on behalf of the Government but nothing was done in order to remove the difficulties of the people of Tippera. Sir, with regard to the river Kornafuli the position is the same. This river caused flood last year and its dredging should be undertaken as quickly as possible so that recurrence of flood can be prevented.

Now, coming to the district of Noakhali, you will find that there are three rivers in the Feni subdivision, namely, Muhuri river, Silonia river and Feni river, which are causing trouble. Government have comprehensive schemes for the prevention of floods and for the resuscitation of dying rivers in East as well as West Bengal. These schemes should be undertaken as soon as possible; otherwise it will be impossible to save the face of Bengal. Sir, I will take you as far back as 1764. In 1772 after the acquisition of Dewani of Bengal by the East India Company, Major Renue, was commissioned to survey the rivers of Bengal and prepared a map. If you will look at the present map of Bengal and compare it with the map of Major Renue you will find what terrible and horrible changes have now taken place on the soil of Bengal. Many rivers in the West and in Central Bengal which at one time used to bring prosperity to those parts of Bengal have died to a point almost beyond reclamation and many rivers in East Bengal are also dying in the same manner. If timely steps are not taken —

(At this stage the time limit was reached.)

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: Sir, may I have five minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: I can give you two minutes only.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: I think the Hon'ble Minister will pay attention to this problem. As far back as 1930 a Committee was appointed, namely, the Hopkyns Committee, which made certain recommendations to the Government. Personally, I appreciate the suggestions made by that Committee with regard to the establishment of a Waterways Trust. We heard in 1937 some noise about legislation for establishing a Waterways Trust, but nothing has been done in that direction by Government up till now. I think Government will take up the question of legislation for the establishment of a Waterways Trust as quickly as possible. The Committee also recommended the establishment of certain district committees which, in my opinion, should consist mainly of non-officials and the duties of those district committees will be to co-ordinate local effort and to establish closer connection with the Irrigation Department of the Government of Bengal so that the needs and problems of particular areas may be placed before the Government and in order to prevent departmental delay a central committee should also be brought into existence.

Now, Sir, I do not think that these committees should come into existence merely due to the pleasure of the Government. I suggest that these committees should be statutory committees owing their existence to statutes

passed by this House so that their advice may at least appear to be valuable to the Government. The Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation will certainly do well to take immediate steps for the establishment of a Waterways Trust, of a central committee and of district committees for harmonising the efforts of the different parts of the province.

(At this stage the member having reached the extra-time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words in support of my motion already moved and in support of the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister placed very attractive and nice schemes before us, as usual, and held out high hopes in our minds. But, Sir, I agree with my friend Mr. Mihirlal Chattopadhyay that there is nothing to be elated because there is very little chance of these schemes materialising in our life. The Hon'ble Minister admitted that the question of health and wealth is inter-related with the question of problems of his department. Sir, he would have done better in the circumstances to ask us to go to bed early and to rise early because his schemes will not materialise. If we go to bed early and rise early, we shall be healthy, wealthy and wise.

Sir, construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works are the most important but the most neglected items. Since the time the British assumed the charge of the administration, no due and proper attention was paid to these directions and as a result the floods are creating havoc very often. Water-logged areas have immensely increased, natural water channels, existing embankments and drainages have gone out of use or are silted up or are dead or dying. In consequence health of the province has alarmingly deteriorated, pestilences and epidemics are rampant, fertility and productivity of the soil have gone down to the lowest level, and working efficiency of the labourers and peasants has very much impaired. Peace, prosperity and happiness are therefore away from our homes.

The policy and attitude of the so-called popular ministry or their predecessors though given more and more powers by the successive reformed Acts did not change very substantially. Due to continued negligent attitude of the successive Governments, the problems of irrigation, embankment, navigation, drainages have assumed such a great proportion that it has become impossible now to cope with the task, so much so, that even if the entire revenue is allotted and spent under these heads most of the things will remain undone.

Let us critically analyse and examine the question. The earliest document is the Embankment and Drainage Report of the Government of Bengal, Irrigation Department, for the year 1900-1901. Bengal, Bihar and Orissa formed one administrative unit then and the total expenditure incurred during the year on embankments and drainage works amounted to Rs.4 lakhs and odd, a ridiculously inadequate allotment, though there were floods—some very high and some of ordinary character—in a very large number of rivers in Bihar, Orissa and Bengal. Three districts, namely, Bogra, Pabna and Malda were affected in the North Bengal but nothing was done there.

Next is the report of the Drainage Committee, Bengal, Presidency Division. The Committee was appointed on the 26th March, 1906, for the reason that an advance might be made in the formulation of practicable drainage schemes by examination of the conditions of the division in which gradual changes in the many channels of the Ganges delta had prejudicially affected extensive areas and also for the reason that obstruction of drainage had usually been held to be a factor giving rise to diseases in Bengal. The members of the Committee visited several places, gathered elaborate statistics, examined the conditions of the rivers and drainages and the

nature of obstructed drainages. They made remedial suggestions, dealt with failures and successes of experiments made and conditions of rivers and small streams. The conditions of rivers and small streams in Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore, Khulna and Faridpur have since then worsened, period of navigability being further shortened and in some cases watercourses becoming fordable for the greater parts of the year. Slightly earlier during March and April 1904, Mr. G. C. Maconachy delivered a series of lectures at Sibpur Engineering College. His elucidation of theories were most scholarly and he discussed the good and bad effects of drainage schemes, mentioning as examples Argowal Circuit in Midnapore, Challan Bhil Scheme in Rajshahi and Pabna, Charoikul Swamp in Nadia, Magrahat drainage scheme in 24-Parganas. He also indicated briefly the main points which had to be enquired into when investigating schemes for flood drainage. Agricultural and health prospects in areas near about Challan *Bhil* have also deteriorated since 1904 and none showed any inclination to reap any benefit out of the colossal works Mr. Maconachy did in preparing his discourse in regard to problems connected with flood drainage. In the two volumes of the "Triennial Review" published by the Government of India for the years 1919-21 and 1933-36 the necessity of irrigation was ascribed to the chief characteristics of the Indian rainfall which are its unequal distribution over the country, its irregular distribution throughout the seasons and its liability to failure and serious deficiency in consequence of which over a great portion of the Indian peninsula successful cultivation cannot be assured for any considerable period unless facilities are available for the artificial watering of the crops when necessary. The review for years 1933-36 showed moderate irrigation, navigation, drainage and anti-malaria works and flood, remedial measures and town protection works in West Bengal alone. When I say this I do not mean that everything that was to be done was done there in the West Bengal or that irrigational works were exhausted there. North and East Bengal are totally ignored with the exception of scanty expenditure of Rs.18,431 for the protection of Kurigram town from erosion by the river Dharla though from a perusal of the report on the rainfall and floods in the North Bengal (1870-1922) compiled by Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis in 1923 we find that the normal rainfall in this part of the province, unless supplemented by artificial supply of water by proper irrigational projects, is quite inadequate for raising any crops. Obstructed drainage, absence of navigational works and silting up of streams and rivers in the North Bengal areas have not only made waterways fall into disuse but have made trade and business to suffer and health and fertility and productivity of lands to horribly deteriorate. We further find that during the 52 years' time from 1870 to 1922 there occurred 25 floods and all the districts without a single exception in the Rajshahi Division were affected. The flood in 1922 affected 400 square miles in Bogra, 1,200 square miles in Rajshahi and small areas in Pabna and Dinajpur. Crops were heavily damaged, large number of houses, cattle, and other domestic animals were washed away and considerable loss of human lives was also caused but yet the North Bengal districts remain unattended. A sum was allotted for contour survey in the North Bengal districts but I think no substantial progress has been made in that direction. Minor and haphazard irrigational and drainage works, in the absence of comprehensive schemes and contour surveys, were, therefore, taken up in some of the districts with uncertain and unsatisfactory results. Public money has been wasted without conferring benefit proportionate to the amount spent. The little benefit that might be derived out of the works will not last long as the drainages have already begun to silt up for want of recurring allotments for the upkeep of any one of them. In certain cases, the works have worse effects as well as in Malda and Dinajpur.

In narrating the history of the irrigation, embankment, navigation and drainage works, I have shown that nothing substantial and practical was

done in that behalf except huge waste of public money in appointing committees and commissions one after another who submitted reports, gathered data and statistics, offered suggestions and formulated schemes, sometimes valuable, only to be forgotten and lost in the archives of the Government Secretariat.

Sir, if you examine the budget statements and allotments for the years 1946-47 and 1947-48, you will find that there has been no improvement in the stereotyped and indifferent attitude of the Government and you will also find that the scanty allotments provided for in the budget remained unappropriated and schemes were either abandoned or not implemented.

Sir, in the year 1946-47 only 5 per cent. of the total revenue was set apart for this department and this year there has been an improvement of 1 per cent.

I will name those schemes the provisions for which remained unspent. Minor Provincial Irrigation and Drainage projects—Rs.5,86,000 has not been spent. Relief and Rehabilitation Irrigation Schemes—Rs.1,16,000 has not been spent. Excavation and re-excavation of silted up small irrigation and drainage channels—Rs.1,83,000 has not been spent. Extension of irrigation facilities by construction of wells, etc.—Rs.76,000 has not been spent. Collection of hydrological data (gauge and discharge observation, etc.)—Rs.1,18,000 has not been spent. Emergency Irrigation Works ("Grow More Food" Schemes)—about 1 lakh has not been spent. Navigation—new works and works in progress—Rs.40,500 has not been spent. Widening of the bed of the Kaliahye river—Rs.1,04,000 has not been spent. Irrigation for rehabilitation—Rs.1,76,000 has not been spent. Navigation for rehabilitation—Rs.20,55,600 has not been spent. Re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks—Rs.10,96,000 has not been spent, and now the project has been altogether given up.

In conclusion, I submit that there is no dearth of data or statistics or suggestions or schemes, but there is want of sincere and capable persons at the head. Please imbibe the spirit of service and you will serve your country and countrymen very well. Do you, Sir, yet ask us to congratulate the Ministry for their performance?

Sir, with these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House. *Jai Hind.*

MR. ALI AHMAD CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion for demand in question and in going to do so I like to speak a few words on the subject. Sir, we know it very well that Bengal is deficit in all kinds of food supply and we are crying for "Grow More Food" every now and then but we do not make any provision for growing them by making all the cultivable land fit through introduction of irrigation as have been done in other provinces. We are to look out to the sky during drought and flood for our cultivation. It is very regrettable. We neglect the whole department though it is so vital to us. Whatever poor amount is spent in the mufassal of the province in the name of irrigation it is also spent in vain in almost in all cases. I will give here a story, nay, a true fact in Chittagong. A scheme was taken up to improve the drainage of Garu Luta Keranja Khan in police-station Patiya last year. Money was sanctioned—a huge money, but what was the result? The contractor did not undertake the work in the working season. When rain started he employed some labourers to clear the sides of the canal. I brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer here. He tried to get the work done quickly but local officials of the department conspired with the contractor not to do the work but to get the money in full by doing very small percentage of work. The Chief Engineer consequently failed to get the work done. How can he do anything? When he was trying the rain started then, no earth work was possible as the whole canal became full with water. If you look to the papers you will see that the work has been satisfactorily done but in

reality you will see that the whole paddy field remains as unimproved as ever but the money has been spent and gone to the pocket of the contractor and the local officials as arranged.

Two other schemes were taken up long, long ago, namely, the Hunger scheme in Satkania police-station and Dhurung Khal scheme in Fatikchhari police-station. The work was started but subsequently stopped after spending a considerable amount. The whole department has become corrupted due to lack of supervision by the higher authorities and competent Minister.

The progress of the Karnafully Major Project is not satisfactory. The river Karnafully has become shallow due to accumulation of sands for want of proper drainage of rain water due to training of the river mouth by the Chittagong Port Authorities and Karnafully Railway Bridge. I have brought these facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister to save Chittagong from repeated flood and destruction. I think the Hon'ble Minister has understood the gravity of the situation and should depute some special officer to see the immediate improvement and drainage of the river.

Sir, we do not grudge that a big project is under experiment throughout West Bengal but at the same time we are very sorry to see the stop-motherly treatment accorded to East Bengal. The Feni subdivision in the district of Noakhali has become a constant source of alarm due to repeated flood but we find no scheme to prevent the recurrence of such flood. The Gumti scheme is being neglected every year. The Gharal Khal in Chittagong has been completely blocked by sand from Sanghu river during the last flood and due to that about 21 square miles of paddy land has turned into a waste land at a loss of about two thousand maunds of paddy annually. Repeated representation has failed to draw the attention of the department since last one year. The river Mathamuhuri in Cox's Bazar stands in immediate need of improvement.

Sir, what we require for the moment is a batch of active young revolutionary workers quite selfless and dedicated to the cause of the motherland who will not hesitate to risk all comfort and luxury for all-round improvement of Bengal.

The Centre is hostile to us, our sister provinces dominated by reactionary elements are similarly hostile. We have got no other alternative but to stand on our own legs. Sovereign Pakistan in Bengal is no more a dream. Let us be prepared.

With these words I take my seat.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মানসীর প্রমুখ বহাদুর, আমার সহযোগী প্রিয়তম বঙ্গের লাল ওষ্ঠ বহাদুর যে ব্যয়-ইচ্ছাই শুভার উপস্থিত করেছেন আমি তার সমর্থন করি।

এখানে বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আমি একটি কথা বলতে চাই। বাজেটের নিয়ম হচ্ছে খরচা মন্ত্রিসভার দ্বারা বাজেট প্রস্তুত করে আমাদের কাছে আনবেন, আমরা authorise করব, approve করে দেব, তাঁরা কত টাকা ব্যয় করবেন আমরা তা সমর্থন করে দেব। তারপরে সেটা সত্যি বায় হ'ল কিনা তাঁরও একটা হিসাব নিকাশ পাইবার আদায় অবিকারী। পৃথিবীর বিভিন্ন সভা দেশে একটা নিয়ম আছে যেসব পদ হস্তাক্ষর পষে সে বৎসরে কত কি ব্যয় হয়েছে তার একটা হিসাব নিকাশ opposition partyকে দেখান হয়ে থাকে। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে একটা Accounts committee আছে, কিন্তু তার হিসাব নিকাশ বায় হর ২১০ বৎসর পষে বহন তার উপর বদলার আর আমাদের কোন অবিকার থাকে না; সেটা তখন বাতী হয়ে যায়। আমাদের Irrigationএর ব্যয়ও আজ আমাদের কাছে পুরানো বয়সী পিচ্ছেন এবং নতুন নতুন পরিকল্পনার কথা বলে আমাদের ঠিকরে তুলিয়ে রাখার চেষ্টা করছেন।

কিভাবে করি পদ বৎসরে এবং তার পূর্ণ বৎসরে তাঁরা যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা নিয়েছেন সে টাকা কিভাবে ব্যয় করেছেন? লোকের জীব করে কত টাকা লোকের উল্লসে নষ্ট করেছেন? কত টাকা নিয়ে কি কি কাজ করেছেন তার একটা হিসাব পর্যন্ত উপস্থিত করেন না। একটা সামান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের Secretary, সেও

তার কার্যের বিবরণ লিখে রাখেন আর কত বড় একটা টাকার মালিক বহী মহাপন তিনি অনেক হিসাব লিখেন না, কোন পুরাণো কি এক হিসাব আমাদের কাছে উপস্থিত করেন। কি করেন না করেন তা বলাই বৃথা লজ্জা হয় ?

উত্তর বলে জল সেচের অভাব, পরিকল্পনার অভাব সম্পর্কে শ্রীযুক্ত নীলীষ বাবু বলেছেন একটা Contour Surveyর পরিকল্পনা করা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু জিজ্ঞাসা করি কত বৎসর Contour Survey করে আর কত টাকা নষ্ট করবেন? এই Contour Survey কত বৎসর করে করবেন, কবে বা শেষ হবে? যখন শেষ হবে তত্কাল বহী মহাপন যদি নদীগুলি জলে ভাসিয়ে দেবার চেষ্টা করেন তখন আর জমির উর্বরা পত্তি বৃদ্ধি হবে না, কারণ জমির গর্ভে তখন আর কিছু থাকবে না; একেবারে শুক হয়ে যাবে। আর আমরাও জলাভাষে তকিয়ে কাঠ হয়ে যাব। সুতরাং যদি কিছু করতে হয় তাড়াতাড়ি করুন, নতুবা আর কিছু করতে হবে না, করতে সময়ও পাবেন না।

উত্তর বলে বহু নদী, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেন্ট আর পর্যন্ত তাদের কোন ব্যবস্থাই করেন নাই। আমাদের যিনি অর্থ সচিব তাঁর প্রাসাদের নীচে গিয়ে করতোয়া কেঁদে কেঁদে শুক হয়ে গেল, কিন্তু তার কোন ব্যবস্থাই হচ্ছে না। আর আমাদের যিনি কৃষি-সচিব তাঁর বাড়ীর একদিকে গাইবান্ধার গরু আর একদিকে বোড়া বাটের বোড়া - তাঁর তো ডাই বান-বাহনের অভাব হয় না। কিন্তু উত্তর বলে আমাদের জলের অভাব হয়েছে। ডাই বৃষ্টি আর irrigationএর এত বীর ব্যবস্থা। কারণ অভাব যে আমাদের, বহীদের তো নয়। উত্তর বলের নদীর কথা বলতে গেলে কত ধূঁধের কথা বলতে হয়।

“গুরুপুত্র” ও “পশু” চর পড়িয়া আসল ভুখণ্ড হতে অনেক স্থানে অনেক ঘুরে ঘুরিয়া গিয়াছে। যে “ত্রিশ্রোতা” একদিন বেনী চৌধুরাণীর বজরা বুকে নিয়া সাহেবকে ও তর দেখাইরাছিল সে আর কীর্ণপুত্রা। “ধরদার” আর থানা নাই, “সদানীয়া”, “করতোয়া” আর অর্থ সচিবের প্রাসাদের পার্শ্বদেশে কীর্ণকণ্ঠা, শুকতোয়া। “হানসের” জল আর হানস মুরগে পর্যাবসিত। “গজারিয়ার” আর আর গর্জন নাই। “বাকালী” আর বাকালীর হত হতসমুদ্র। “ঘাঘটে” আর আর বর্ষের নল নাই। “নাগর” আর আর বাড়ী বাড়ী ধরবে অসমর্থ। “বনুনা” পার হতে আর আর কৃককে কাণ্ডারী করতে হয় না। “তুলসী গজার” আর গজাপ্রাপ্তি হয়েছে; তুলসীর বদলে আর তার বুকে কচুরিপানা। “শ্রীর” আর আর শ্রী নাই—সে বিশ্রী। “হারমতি” আর হারিয়ে গেছে। “বহানন্দা” আর আর আনন্দ ঘের না। “জলচাকা” আর আর জলে কেত ও পাখার চাক না। আর তার জল কচুরিপানার চাকা। “বৃহা” আর আর ধুঁধাবাহিনী নয়। “ডোড়ার” আর সে ডোড় নাই। “সাকোশ” আর সঙ্কোচে সতীর্ণ। “কাজন” আর আর তীরে তীরে কাজন কলার না। “আত্রেহী” তো আর জলাভাষে আইচাই। “নারদের” আর আর দুই কুলে ঘষ নাই—প্রায় বিলিয়া গিয়াছে। “বড়ল” আর আর বড় নয়। “নন্দকুজার” জলের কুজন নাই। “বারানই” আর আর বড় নাই। “ইছামতী” তে জলকট—জলের ইচ্ছা সেখানে বেটে না। “চিকনাইর” জল আর। ঠাকিরণে চিক্, চিক্ করে না। “হুড়াগরের” আর লাগর নাই। “মুখরলের” জলে আর আর ধূঁধের মিটতা নাই। “কমলের” আর সে সৌন্দর্য নাই। উত্তরবলের নদীর তো এই অবস্থা।

উত্তরবলে তিনটা Project করছেন তখনতে পাচ্ছি। তার নাকি scheme করতেই লাগবে ১৫ বৎসর। জয়পুর scheme কার্যে পরিণত হতে আর কত বৎসর লাগবে কে জানে? সেই কথা ভেবে ভেবে জো আমরা হরহান হয়ে যাচ্ছি। যে বহীরা পরিত্রদের ডোটে ঘেঁষের সেবা করবার প্রতিশ্রুতিতে নিব্রুচিত, আর তো তাঁরা ভেদন কিছুই করছেন না।

বহী মহাপন জানেন উত্তরবলের বান চিরশ্রুতি। এমন লজ্জাটল বাকলার আর কোথাও পাওয়া যায় না। কাটারিডোপ—সে কাটারি দিয়ে গলা কাটে না। কাটারিডোপ ডোপে ত্তি কুণা কাটার।

আজ বেগে জল কমল হতে পারছে না কারণ নদীতে সেচের ব্যবস্থা নাই। ডাই বানুকাটের লামা মহকুমার নদীগুলি কীর্ণ শীর্ণ; ডায়া সতাই বানুর বাটে পরিণত হয়েছে; বানের বাট আর হবে না।

বহী মহাপন জানেন কি না জানি না যে উত্তর বলে প্রচুর পরিমাণে আলু হয় কিন্তু আলু সেচের কল। নদীতে যদি জল থাকে পর জল তকিরে হাঙ জমলে আমাদের আলুর জমিতে সেচ দেবার জল পাৰ কোথায়? ডাই ভণু বানের অভাব হচ্ছে না আমাদের বৈশিষ্ট্য বালু আলু তার পর্যন্ত অভাব হচ্ছে। ডাই বহী মহাপনের কাছে অনুসরণ তিনি আমাদের নিকে একটু বৃষ্টি শেষ নইলে উত্তর বজ আর বেনী দিন বাঁচবে না। আরও অনুসরণ তাঁরা না। কখনো বেন একটু জড়াতাড়ি করেন বাতে বেনটা হকা পেতে পারে। ভণু Irrigation Plan এ বিবেচন কিছু কাজ হবে না। যদি বন্যা গিরে সেপের সলকী ছাপিরে জলিরে বিড়ে পাবেন তখনই বানের কৃষিকা হবে, বাহ বাঁচবে।

আজ বাই বাতুছে না কেন? একজন প্রবীণ জেনে থাকবে বনছিল বাতুতো বাটে বয়া সেল। সত্যকথা, জব্বাদের বেশে সন্নিভার বর্ষার পরে আর জল থাকে না, তবিরে বাটে হরে বার কাজে কাজেই বাতুতো সেই তকনো বাটে বয়া বাতু।

আপনারা সকলে তখন বিমিত্ত হবেন যে উত্তরবঙ্গে গত ১৯৪১ সালে প্রায় ২ লক্ষের উপর লোক ম্যালেরিয়ার মারা গিয়াছে। Bently সাহেব বলেছিলেন যদি দেশের নদনদীগুলো বন্নার জলে ডাঙ্গিরে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে নদীর বাচাটা সব হয়ে যাবে; এবং দেশ ম্যালেরিয়ারমুক্ত হবে। বহী বহাণর যদি নদীতে জল থাকতে না পায়েন তাহলে তখন Quinine দিয়ে ম্যালেরিয়া ঠেকাতে পারবেন না। এক গ্রেন Quinine কেবল তার বারপার এক কোটি বলা ঠেবী হয়ে যাবে, তার উপায় কি করবেন?

তাই বহী বহাণরের কাছে আমার অনুরোধ তাঁরা যদি দেশকে সর্গ প্রকাশে বলা করতে চান তাহলে বা করবেন একটা তাড়াহাড়ি করুন এবং নদীগুলি যাতে শীঘ্র সংভার হয় তার চেষ্টা করুন। তখন বসে থেকে বছরে বছরে বাংলার বাতুটে থেকে টাকা নিলে হবে না তা ভালভাবে ব্যয় করতে হবে তা নইলে দেশের মজল কি করে হবে?

(A VOICE: হায়রে পাখান বহী।)

Mr. SYED ABDUR RAUF: Sir, I participate in this discussion with a view to place on record our grievances against Government for making no provision for the resuscitation of the dying rivers in our district of Jessore. Sir, Jessore is known to be a fever district and its principal rivers have all come out from the Mathabhanga and the Jalangi which flow in the district of Nadia. Sir, when these rivers were living and flowing it brought prosperity and happiness to the teeming Indians of the soil. It brought a flourishing agriculture and commerce; beautiful towns grew up and more populous and prosperous villages were found every where in the district, but in an unfortunate moment, Sir, the Eastern Bengal Railway line was constructed and this line ran parallel to the rivers Jalangi and Mathabhanga, and at the mouths of these rivers bridges were constructed by the railway company. These bridges were shallow and narrow and perhaps the Company in order to minimise the cost constructed such shallow and narrow bridges with the connivance of this Government. Now the consequence is that in the course of a few years the mouths of these rivers were silted up and ultimately these rivers died. Sir, with the death of these rivers all sorts of miseries have come out in our district. Malaria, cholera and all fell diseases are rampant in our district and taking a heavy toll of the teeming population of this district. In the course of few years the numerical strength, or rather the population of the district has been reduced by lakhs; not by hundreds but by lakhs; Sir, so much so that from 18 lakhs it came to be 14 lakhs. Now, Sir, the question is whether the people's Government which is now established here in the province, will also be adamant as the bureaucratic Government which was before. Sir, the noble sons of the soil were not unmindful of their duties. They kept on agitating since 1919 till the agitation became grave and Government had to build some cuts such as Ghuznavi cut, Bijoy cut and Sirish cut. The Ghuznavi cut and the Bijoy cut were successful but the Sirish cut was altogether unsuccessful. Although a sum of rupees two lakhs was spent for this scheme but unfortunately not a drop of water came.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. SYED ABDUR RAUF: One minute more, Sir. Although a sum of rupees two lakhs was spent not a single drop of water came. This, I say, is a monumental scandal of the Irrigation Department, and I ask the present Government to hold an enquiry as to why this cut was altogether unsuccessful. I draw the attention of the present Government and say that it is the people's demand, it is the demand of about 18 lakhs of people, and they are crying for water, water and we want water from our popular Ministry.

Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: Sir, I wish to say a few words on the cut motion of my friend Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharji. It is the proud privilege of both of us to represent a small section of people in this House.

Bengal has a peculiar and special problem of its own, over and above the larger problems which are engaging the serious consideration of our leaders. It is the unique problem, Sir. The question is of life and death to the people we represent. This problem is urgent and of imperative necessity, namely, the resuscitation of dead and dying rivers. Sir, planning is the order of the day—planning of different rivers, planning of short-term and long-term, planning for agricultural, industrial and irrigation uplift of the country, planning for public health, and now every Government is thinking in terms of planning. Our Government has also prepared a plethora of plans, but to our great misfortune, if not to our undying shame, these are not calculated to revive the glory of the industries for which we were once famous. The rivers which once brought us health and wealth and plenty through flourishing trade and commerce, have remained as neglected as ever. The plans of the Bengal Government have only one end in view and that is to provide a wide range of employment to a particular section of the people of this country. Sir, I would very much like to refer to the Blue Book published by Government; this volume has been published to show how many new posts are going to be created under each scheme but it has not a word to show how the dumb millions of this ill-fated country are going to be affected by these plans. I quite appreciate, Sir, the tremendous anxiety of a communal Government as opposed to a party Government to provide employment to as many members of its community as possible. Party Governments, Sir, have to look after the well-being of the people in general as the people can make and unmake them. But a communal Government under the present system has a perpetual majority and the members of the Government have no incentive whatsoever to look after the well-being of that section of the people who have not, nor can have, any say in the constitution of the Government.

Sir, I do not deny the necessity or the urgency of the establishment of medical colleges, agricultural colleges, engineering colleges and such other colleges, and I am fully alive to the necessity of providing employment to people who are clamouring for jobs but what I do condemn is the lack of imagination of those who have been entrusted with the sacred duty of looking after the economic uplift of the country.

The rivers in Eastern Bengal are either dead or fast dying out with the result that prosperous and healthy villages are now in the grip of malarial and destitution.

The present budget is a deficit budget. I would certainly have congratulated the Government for having the boldness and courage of presenting a deficit budget if I found that the deficit was due to the provision for well-thought-out plans for the rehabilitation of the people in general, for the removal of poverty, for the resuscitation of the rivers whose decay has caused untold sufferings to the people. Our Government has gone in for schemes calculated to benefit a particular community with elation and joy at the glory and triumph of one community over the other. Schemes which are likely to benefit all the people of the country irrespective of caste or community did not commend themselves to the Government.

Sir, the death of the river Brahmaputra, the decay of the rivers Sitalakha, Dhaleswari, Buriganga, Bangsai and Ichlamati in Dacca district have brought about economic ruination of a very large section of the country which was once renowned for its prosperity and health but this had no consideration at the hands of our Government—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. RAJENDRA NATH SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend, Sj. Sushil Kumar Banerjee.

Sir, the failure of the Government to make an early comprehensive survey of the rivers and drainage system of West Bengal have brought manifold mischief. The river problems of Bengal are very complex and

vital and they demand quick and immediate solution. For with these problems are linked the problems of living of the people of the province. Sir, the work of the Irrigation Department is no doubt vast. I sha' first confine myself only to that side of the work that involves the ear and maintenance of embankments. Here also Government have hopelessly failed to effect any appreciable improvement for want of any comprehensive survey in the matter.

Sir, the question of care and maintenance of embankments is a knotty problem and if any early solution cannot be arrived at, it will continue endangering thousands and thousands of lives of the people of the province. In two of the districts of West Bengal, namely, Khulna and 24-Parganas, people have been unable to tackle the problem of embankments for their lands in the Sundarbans area covering thousands and thousands of acres, and in most cases care and maintenance of embankment are a condition precedent to raising of crops in the lands. At present the task of constructing and maintaining embankments in the lands in the Sundarbana area is entrusted with the tillers of the soil, the rayats. Neither the proprietors nor Government have any responsibility in the matter. The rayats on account of poverty and dissensions, can hardly maintain their lands so as to save them from the havoc of floods year after year.

Sir, nearly every year some part or other of the Sundarbans area comprising in extensive crop-fields is visited by floods causing total destruction of the standing crops. Generally in this area only one crop can be raised on the lands once a year, viz., the Aman paddy. And to the great misfortune of the poor people concerned when this crop is destroyed by floods they have no other alternative than to starve unto death. And unless the situation becomes alarming Government do not extend any relief and when Government relief is extended at the expense of thousands of rupees, most of the money spent goes elsewhere than to the relief of the suffering people.

Sir, this distress and huge expenses can be averted by spending half the amount to tackle the problem of embankment in these areas. But without a comprehensive survey of the rivers and drainage concerned and a policy formulated with a view to serving the people instead of commercial profit, nothing can be done in this direction.

Sir, the problem of dead and dying rivers in all parts of the province has become equally acute. Certain rivers of West Bengal as well as Central Bengal, viz., the Kumar, Nabaganga, Chitra, Bhanab, Begabati, Kapotaksha, Ichhamati and Betua and many other navigation canals in Khulna and other districts deserve immediate attention of the Government. The rivers Kapotaksha, Posure, Bhanab and Bhadra and their branches in the districts of Khulna and Jessore used to carry sweet waters to a vast area of paddy-growing lands. But gradually these rivers are becoming silted up at places and have ceased carrying rich waters all over the area with the result that the saline waters of the river Shubsha are repeatedly overflowing the said areas causing the lands all the more unproductive.

Sir, with the dying rivers of Bengal, the people of the province are dying, their lands are growing unproductive, their trade is suspended and communication impeded.

Sir, a comprehensive survey of the rivers and drainage system of West Bengal is very urgently necessary and cannot wait. For it affects the health and wealth of thousands and thousands of people on both sides of the rivers concerned.

Irrigation, Sir, is one of the best ways of bringing about improvement to those districts of Bengal which suffer from inadequate and irregular supply of water. It also benefits those districts too which have risk of losing their good crops by floods. The health of the people can be improved by giving effect to expert schemes in this direction by which communication and trade can certainly be benefited.

Sir, if the people of the province cannot be saved from the dangers of the rivers and if the gifts of rivers cannot be made available to the people, what is the good of maintaining this department at the cost of huge sums from the public exchequer?

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened with great interest and care the observations made by the honourable members but within the very limited time at my disposal it is not possible for me to answer to all of them. But, Sir, I feel extremely grateful to some of the members for their many useful and practical suggestions. Sir, it is really very gratifying to know that all the honourable members have fully supported my contention.

Sir, I feel greatly encouraged that all realise the great value, importance and urgency of the irrigation schemes. But, Sir, as it is not possible for me to answer to all the members, may I most earnestly and respectfully request the honourable members to meet me and discuss with me regarding the different projects in which they may feel interested and thus give me the benefit of their experience.

Now, Sir, regarding the cut motion of Mr. Annada Prasad Mandal, I would only submit that under the Development Act the Damodar Canal was constructed at a cost of about Rs.1,24,00,000 and that it has given great benefit to the people cannot be denied. It is an admitted fact that in this Damodar Canal area the outturn of crop has been guaranteed and there is no failure of crop and accordingly it has been provided that the total amount of water rate may be assessed up to the half of the increased net profit. Sir, as a result of experiments during the last six years, it has been found out that the average actual net increase in the outturn of paddy per acre of this area is about 8½ maunds and about 23 maunds of straw is obtained from this area. According to the actual price now prevailing in the country, the price of 8½ maunds of paddy and 23 maunds of straw comes to about Rs.67 and according to the Act in this particular area, not more than Rs.5-8 can be charged as water rate. Rs. 5-8 per acre means Rs.1-13-4 per *bigha* and anyone who has any idea of that area will bear me out that the actual net increase in profit in that area is many times this amount. If the people of that area refuse to pay this tax, I would submit that that will greatly hamper our future activities either for extending this canal or for executing similar other projects. I hope, Sir, the leaders of public opinion in that area will kindly realise this fact and will induce the people to pay the water rate assessed in this area.

Regarding the defects in the irrigation projects in Nadua district and other adjoining places, I would at present only submit that these schemes are all covered by the Ganges Barrage Scheme and I am sure the House will agree that piecemeal irrigation projects can never prove successful. I am sure, Sir, that when this Ganges Barrage Scheme will come into effect, all these problems will be solved. (Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY : After how many years?) I hope, Sir, it will be possible for the Government to place before you a detailed scheme for all the irrigation projects in the next budget session of the House.

Regarding the cut motion of Mr. Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya about the Mor scheme, I have already stated in detail about it. The scheme is already in progress and the reason why Part I of the scheme, viz., the construction of the dam, has not been possible to be given effect to, is that it is entirely due to the dilatory procedure adopted by the Bihar Government. I hope, Sir, Mr. Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya and his Leader will be kind and good enough to help Government in solving this trouble by inducing the Bihar Government to readily agree to our proposal so that we may make headway in this direction. I am grateful, Sir, that Mr. Chattopadhyaya has already taken up this task.

Regarding the motion of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta on the irrigation of North Bengal, I have already stated that we expect that the Teesta Valley Scheme, when given effect to, will solve the irrigation problems in the whole of North Bengal and, besides that, it will give sufficient supply of electric energy for various useful and productive purposes.

Regarding the cut motion of my friend Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, I have already stated that due to various factors, it has not been possible to make substantial progress regarding some of these schemes, the reason being the dearth of materials, dearth of tools and plants and dearth of technical experts, on the one hand, and also the obstructionist policy in the case of others. I know of instances where even to remove a cross-bar *bund* criminal proceedings were instituted against officers. I know of instances where irrigation projects were stopped because lots of objection were raised and suits were filed in court in the matter of land acquisition. This along with other reasons which have already been stated are mainly responsible for the delay in some of our works, but I hope it will now be possible for us to make headway in all these works and expedite these works.

Regarding the improvement of rivers in East Bengal, we have already drawn up a comprehensive scheme for the Brahmaputra river and also for other rivers in different districts of Dacca, Chittagong and other places. It is not possible to dilate upon these in details now.

Regarding the comprehensive survey of the river drainage system in West Bengal, as I have already stated, we expect that the Damodar Scheme and the Mor Scheme will go a great way in solving the irrigation problems of West Bengal. I think I need not repeat and state in details about all these things. I have not given a rosy picture, as some members have said, but I have given a true picture which is not rosy but a gloomy one.

Lastly, I can assure the House that whatever may have been the case in the past, the present Government is determined to make a headway and to proceed with the works most earnestly and seriously. The present Government does not believe in theory but it believes in action and, I hope, by our own action, we will be able to prove that we are determined to solve our irrigation problems which, I am glad to say, the whole House realises, is the most important of all the problems.

Sir, with these few words I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Annada Prasad Mandal that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—66.

Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
Bandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal
Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra
Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar
Basu, Mr. Jyoti
Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
Birsha, Mr. Bir
Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath
Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
Dasg, Mr. Kanailal
Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath

De, Mr. Kanai Lal
Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath
Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu
Ganguli, Mr. Bipin Behari
Ghose, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar
Guha Roy, Dr. Prolap Chandra
Gupta, Mr. J. C.
Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan.
Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath
Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra
Mahtab, Sir Uday Chand, K.C.I.E.,
Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mallick, Mr. Ashuteesh
Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad
Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari

Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan
 Murarka, Mr. Basantlal
 Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
 Panja, Mr. Jadbendra Nath
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
 Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta
 Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy
 Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar

Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
 Roy, Mr. Rup Narayan
 Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna
 Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan
 Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
 Sinha, Mr. Arun Chandra
 Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra

NOES—118.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.
 Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
 Abdul Aziz Munshi, Mr.
 Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza
 Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.
 Abdul Halim, Mr. Molla Mohammad
 Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
 Abdul Hannan, Mr.
 Abdul Karim, Mr.
 Abdul Khaleque, Mr.
 Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir
 Abdul Momin, Mr.
 Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md.
 Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M.
 Abdur Rahman Khan (alias Nuru Mia), Mr.
 Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
 Abdur Rauf, Mr. Syed
 Abdus Sabur Khan, Mr.
 Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.
 Abidur Reza Choudhury, Mr.
 Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.
 Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi
 Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir
 Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.
 Ahmed Hossain, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.
 Akbar Ali, Maulvi
 Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.
 Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.
 Anwara Khatun, Mrs.
 Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.
 Aulad Hossain Khan, Mr.
 Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed
 Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.
 Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.
 Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra
 Barury, The Hon'ble Mr. Dwarka Nath
 Biswas, Dr. Bhola Nath
 Biswas, Mr. Gayanath
 Duff, Mr. D. I.
 Ebrahim Khan, Mr.
 Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr.
 Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.
 Fazlul Karim, Mr.
 Fazlul Qadir, Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Daoca), The Hon'ble Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Mr.
 Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.
 Fisk, Mr. F. W.
 Gomes, Mr. D.
 Gomes, Mr. R. A.
 Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed
 Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Mr.
 Hamiduddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Hassan Ali, Mr.
 Hatem Ally, Khan Sahib
 Husean Ars Begum
 Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.

Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr.
 Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan
 Jah Saliyd
 Khairat Hossain, Mr.
 Luke, Mr. H. A.
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr.
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan
 Madar Bux, Mr.
 Mafizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Mahammad Afzal, Mr. Syed
 Mahammad Owais, Mr.
 Majibar Rahman, Maulvi
 Malik, Dr. A. M.
 Masluddin Ahmed (alias Raja Miah), Mr.
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Talyab
 Methold, Mr. J. H.
 Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr.
 Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Mozammel Hossain, Dr.
 Mudassir Hossain, Mr.
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
 Muhammad Idris, Maulvi
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
 Muhammad Israil, Mr.
 Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji
 Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
 Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed
 Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary
 Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
 Nasarulla, Mr. K.
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
 Nawab Ali, Mr.
 Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
 Nurazzaman, Mr.
 Osman Gani, Mr. Md.
 Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Pentony, Mr. L. R.
 Ray, The Hon'ble Mr. Nagendra Narayan
 Salim, Mr. S. A.
 Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Gaibandha)
 Serajul Islam, Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (alias Badsha Mia), Mr.
 Sharfuddin Ahmed, Mr.
 Stark, Mr. A. F.
 Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
 Tafazzal Ali, Mr.
 Todd, Mr. N. K.
 Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
 Wade, Mr. C. P. G.
 Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
 Wilkinson, Mr. G.
 Withurse, Mr.
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
 Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Mr.

Ayes being 66 and the Noes 116, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shyamapada Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Susil Kumar Banerji that the demand of Rs.3,62,90,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukherjee that a sum of Rs.3,62,90,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

40—Agriculture and 71 Capital Outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.3,34,97,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital Outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

Sir, the objective of planned agriculture is first to provide food for every individual conforming in quantity and quality to the modern standards of nutrition and secondly, to produce sufficient raw materials for industry so as to provide a balanced economy between food crops and commercial crops. In order to secure this objective the first requisite is to secure an increase in the productivity of the existing arable areas in the province. Thus we hope to achieve by various methods.

I would refer first to the establishment of the Seed Multiplication Farms. It must be known to the honourable members that one of the most effective ways of increasing agricultural production is the use of good quality seeds. In Bengal our research workers have evolved improved varieties of paddy and jute seeds but we have not yet been able to make those seeds available to the people in any large quantities. We have in the past distributed seeds of different crops but they were seeds which we could not call good quality seeds except in a few cases. The task of supplying seeds was undertaken more as a measure of relief than as a measure of Agricultural Development. All that we have done so far is to procure foodgrains from the public and to distribute them as seeds after subjecting them to a germination test. We have got small demonstration farms of our own and we have been getting small quantities of good quality seeds from that source but they could not meet even a fraction of the demand. The establishment of Seed Multiplication Farms should not be delayed any further. Our idea is to have altogether 29 Seed Multiplication Farms. One of these farms which will be primarily devoted to multiplication of Jute Seeds will be 1,000 acres in area. Every other farm will be more or less 200 acres in area. These farms will be linked to registered growers

of class A and class B. The seeds produced at the farm will be given for further multiplication to A class growers and the seeds produced by A class growers to B class growers. It is estimated that it will become possible to cover the entire countryside with good quality seeds within four years after the establishment of the farms. We shall of course continue to distribute comparatively small quantities of seeds available from our own farms. I may mention here that land for five seed multiplication farms has already been acquired and cultivation, etc., started. We are proceeding ahead with the establishment of other farms. Our progress is slow due to the difficulty in getting materials for putting up buildings, equipments, etc. It is hoped to make these farms paying. The Works and Buildings Department had already too much work on their hands and it has therefore been found necessary to have a separate Works and Buildings Section under the Agricultural Directorate. Simultaneously with the drive for the establishment of these farms, we have discontinued purchasing seeds of staple crops, the genuineness of which we are unable to guarantee. We propose to restrict our activities in this direction to the distribution of vegetable seeds and seeds of fodder crops which have to be imported from outside Bengal. It would perhaps be desirable for me to indicate here that we are trying to grow seeds of certain types of vegetables as would run to seed in the plains of Bengal at Krishnagar.

The other method of increasing agricultural production is the use of manures. This method is estimated to increase production by at least 20 per cent. We have particularly concentrated on popularising different types of manures among our cultivators during the current year. We propose to increase our activity in this direction still further. Bonemeal which was seldom used as manure until two years ago is now very much in demand and we feel that we should be able to consume within Bengal all the bonemeal which is manufactured here. The Bengal cultivator has also taken very kindly to artificial fertilisers. We have distributed nearly 15,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate during the current year. We hope to take in double the figure provided supplies from abroad are forthcoming. The honourable members may be interested to hear that for the first time this year we are distributing fertilisers direct through our seed stores and not through the Imperial Chemical Industries. This will result in undoubted economy and wider distribution of the fertilisers. We have also been trying to initiate the villagers in the use of compost and green manuring. We have to continue increasing the pace of our activity until the service of the department reaches every grower in every village of this big Province. At present the activities of the Department are on a very much restricted scale. For carrying our message to the door steps of the grower we want a much bigger organization, manned by men properly trained and inspired with sympathy for the cultivators. Bengal has, more than any other big Province of India, neglected in the past the provision of facilities for giving technical training in Agriculture and animal husbandry to the sons of the soil. I am trying my best to make up for this deficiency. We have to re-organise and expand both our agricultural schools as well as our agricultural college. We have provided funds in the budget for the purpose but the amounts given indicate only the stage of progress which we hope to attain during the coming year. Actually bigger sums will be required to give effect to the complete schemes. The fact is that our progress in implementing these schemes is being retarded by the scarcity of building materials. Anyway we are laying down sound foundations and the good superstructure will arise in due course. We have made provision for sending 14 boys abroad for technical training during the coming year. We selected 14 boys for the same purpose during the current year. Some of them have already left for foreign countries. Others are awaiting allotment of passages, etc. In a few years' time Bengal will have a fairly large number of experts of its own and there will be very little occasion to get technical men from elsewhere as has been the case hitherto.

Provision has also been made for the establishment of thana seed stores all over Bengal. We have already got 226 seed stores but they are all located in hired buildings which are really not suitable for the storage of good seeds and manures. We hope to have one seed store in each thana at the end of the coming five years. The term "seed store" is really a misnomer, as it might imply as if from these stores only seeds are given out. In fact from these stores we distribute seeds, manures, and agricultural overseer whose duties include giving advice to cultivators on all matters pertaining to crop and animal husbandry. Where he cannot give proper advice himself, he refers the person seeking his advice to the appropriate person on the higher level. I have visited several of these stores during the course of my tours and while I cannot claim that they are all working efficiently I feel that they are rendering useful service. These stores are gradually becoming the centres of all our extension activities. As indicated already we are expanding our activities in various directions. For this extra staff has to be appointed. The pity is that we do not always get sufficient number of properly qualified men. We have then to slow down our pace of performance. The current year saw the amalgamation of the Development department with the Agricultural Directorate. There were considerable economies which resulted from this amalgamation. Moreover, the Agricultural Directorate got additional manpower which is being utilised for intensified propaganda. The Assistant Inspectors of Jute were kept engaged in running the winter vegetable seedling centres. During this winter we ran as many as 330 centres all over Bengal. We can claim that this scheme resulted in stimulating increased vegetable production in this province.

I do not want to go into further details of the work which we propose to do in the coming year in regard to horticultural development and the development of sugarcane. It should be sufficient if I tell you that we are trying to work the great potentialities in these fields to the fullest extent possible.

Crop husbandry and animal husbandry go hand in hand. Agriculture cannot prosper unless our cattle improve. During the war years our province suffered a lot due to the depletion of its cattle wealth. It is our policy to give the cultivator a good dual purpose animal. Years of research have produced one definite result. It is that the Hariana breed of cattle provides the answer to the cultivator's requirements. We could import very few bulls for upgrading our cattle during the war years. We are importing 800 bulls during the current year and a slightly higher number during the coming year. We have learnt a few lessons from our past experience and we are now putting the bulls in concentrated areas of different districts rather than spreading them all over the place. The caretakers of bulls are selected with care. Each one of them is given Rs 15 per mensem by way of maintenance charge for the bull. Every caretaker is required to grow at least one acre of fodder crop. The progeny of the bulls are carefully registered. The work of upgrading the local cattle is thus proceeding slowly but systematically. Every scrub bull in the concentrated area is castrated simultaneously with the planting of a pedigree bull. It is not our intention to continue importing bulls for this work from outside for all time to come. As is already known to the honourable members of the House we are engaged now in setting up the livestock breeding-cum-research station at Haringhata. We hope to start the actual breeding on this farm in the coming year. We should be supplying bulls from this farm every year once it gets going properly. Provision has been made in the budget for completing the buildings, staffing, etc., of this farm in the coming year. We also propose to take effective step to conserve our existing breeding stock. This is to be achieved by the establishment of a farm for the salvage of dry cows from Calcutta. It is our policy to encourage good local breeds wherever available. We have only two tracts which can provide good local breeds. One is the hilly area round Kalimpong, and it will be noticed that

steps have been taken to establish a farm at Kalimpong for work on Seri Cattle. The other tract which looks promising is the Chittagong district and we propose setting up a breeding farm for work on the local breed.

It is natural to turn to poultry from cattle. Bengal leads in this matter most other provinces. We have set up five big poultry multiplication centres. We are now in a position to supply thousands of high grade birds and eggs to the cultivators. I believe that we could do with more of such farms.

It would make a long story if I were to enumerate all the schemes as are receiving our attention. All that impresses me most is the fact that our province possesses the richest soil in India. We can grow almost any known crop on our lands. We have failed to utilise our natural resources to the best advantage due to lack of interest in agriculture. I see now an awakening and I welcome it. I would like it to grow so that Agricultural development comes to be treated as the item of work possessing the highest priority. The demands I am putting forward today are high compared to what they used to be in the pre-famine periods but they are actually low when one considers the gigantic proportion of the agricultural problem. I am not pitching them higher as I have not yet got the requisite human and other materials. All of us would, I believe, like to see these demands increase in size as soon as we are assured of their proper utilisation.

With these words, Sir, I request the House to accept the demands.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research", be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving the motion is to raise a discussion about mismanagement and corruption and failure of the Government to implement the scientific improvement of the fertilizer and other equipments, inefficiency introduced in the name of communal ratio and other grievances.

Mr. ANNADA PRASAD MANDAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research", be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving the motion is to raise a discussion about the policy in connection with "Grow More Food" Schemes.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research", be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the department to work more vigorously to eradicate pests to the plants; failure to educate people how to keep potatoes unrotten; failure to supply seeds which germinate; to publish up-to-date agricultural statistics of the province in proper time; failure to distribute Bengali leaflets in plain language in large numbers to tell people how to improve agriculture.

Mr. MONORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research", be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to supply sufficient manure and plough cattle to the agriculturists and the failure to introduce cattle insurance on a sufficient scale.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving the motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to take adequate steps for the improvement of the breed of cattle.

Mr. H. A. LUKE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving the motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity for an increase in the jute acreage.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving the motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to introduce in practice a really effective policy.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, বাংলাদেশের Agriculture সম্বন্ধে বলতে গেলে, পূর্বসেই কথা নয় যে, বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের বাজেট পুষ্টি বৎসর ৪৬ নিকা provide করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু এর একটি গম্যস্ত কৃষকের উপরে পড়েনি। ১৯৬৭ সাল থেকে দেশের অসংখ্য যে পুষ্টি বৎসরই বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের Agriculture Departmentএ কয়েক কোটি করে টাকা খরচ হয় কিন্তু গোরা, আমাদের চতুর্দিকে যে সমস্ত গরুর কৃষকদের পুষ্টিদিন পদকতি, তাদের যে বিলুপ্তি উপকার হয়েছে একথা আমি বলতে পারি না। পূর্বে তাদের ভবিষ্যৎ যত বান ফরতো এখন আর তা ফলে না। তাদের ভবিষ্যৎ আগাড়া ছিল না এখন তা হচ্ছে। তারা পূর্বে যে প্রকার পুঁচুর খাবার খেতে পেতো, এখন আর এটা তারা খেতে পায় না। এবং বাংলাদেশের বহুমান বাঙ্গালার অধিকাংশকেই আপনাকা এটা অনুমান করে নিতে পারেন। সেখা যাচ্ছে যে, অনেকগুলি জেলাতে একবারেই বান নেই, এবং গরুর চাষী-মজুরদের বাঙ্গালার অভাবে বহু দুর্ভোগ ভোগ করতে হচ্ছে। কাজেই, বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের Agriculture Departmentএর দ্বারা গরুর চাষীর যে কোন উন্নতি হয়েছে একথা দলক করে কেউ বলতে পারবে না। দ্বারা এতগুলি টাকা ইচ্ছানুসারী ব্যব করেন, তারা ইচ্ছা করেনই গরুর চাষীর দাবী উপকার করতে পারতেন। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টের Agriculture Departmentএ যে সমস্ত District Officers ও Sub-divisional Officers আছেন, তারা যদি তাঁদের areaতে ঘুরে ঘুরে, যে সমস্ত পণ্ডিত ভরি পড়ে আছে, সেই সমস্ত ভরি নিয়ে একটি প্রয়োজনীয় scheme করতে পারতেন, তাহলে বৎসরে আরও অধিক পরিমাণ বান ও আনান ফসল উৎপাদন হতে পারতো। কিন্তু সেটা তাঁকা করেন নি। এই সমস্ত অফিসাররা তাদের কতকগুলি সেখানে বুলি, Agricultural Industryর ভাষায় উচ্চ হয়ে, গরুর নিরক্ষর চাষীদের কাছে গিয়ে বক্তৃতা দিতে থাকেন। কিন্তু চাষীরা সেখাপড়া জানে না বলে তা জলস্রম করতে পারে না। বহুসংখ্যে গভর্নমেন্ট কিছু কিছু সাল বিলি করতে আরম্ভ করেছেন। হাড়ের সার কিনে নিয়ে, আরার তা বিক্রয় করার জন্য এটা টাকা বেতন দিয়ে লোক না রাখলেও চলতে পারতো। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেন্টের নাকফত বিক্রয় করা যেতে পারতো। এই সব কাজের জন্য এত টাকা ব্যয় করে এই সমস্ত District ও Subdivisional অফিসারদের দ্বারা কোন লাভকতা নেই। কারণ ইহার দ্বারা নিরক্ষর, অশিক্ষিত গ্রামা লোকদের চাষ সম্পর্কে কোন জ্ঞান লাভেনি, পুষ্টিও যেমন তারা চাষ করতে পারেন তাই করতে। চাষের উন্নতির কোন লক্ষণই নেই, অথচ গভর্নমেন্ট পুষ্টিবৎসর হাজার হাজার টাকা গ্রন্থর জন্য ব্যয় করে চলেছেন। পুষ্টি বৎসর যে এতগুলি টাকা খরচ হয়, তাতে কেবল এইটাই প্রমাণ হয়েছে যে গভর্নমেন্ট কতগুলি লোককে, Communal Ratio Rule অনুযায়ী এই departmentএ নিয়োগ করতে পারেন। আমাদের দেশের কিছু লোক চাকরী পাক তাতে আবার আপত্তি নেই। কিন্তু সেই সমস্ত লোক যদি বঁটা, কাশ ভেঙ্গে গ্রামের ভিতর গিয়ে, গ্রামের চাষীদের শৃঙ্খল কথা শুনতো এবং তাহাদের কাছাকাছি গভর্নমেন্টের নিকট উপস্থিত করতে পারত, তাহলে তারা উপকৃত হতো; এবং গভর্নমেন্ট যে টাকা তাদের জন্য

বার করেন তা সার্থক হতো। এই যে—শিল্পক বহাশরকে বেতন দেওয়া হয়, আর তিনি যদি বাড়ী বসে কেবল টাকা নেন ও খালি ডামাক খেতে থাকেন, তাহলে তার যা কল হয় তা আপনারা জানেন। কাজেই Agri-cultural Department-এর অফিসাররা বড় বড় দেয়াত কলম নিয়ে বসে বসে খালি লিখলেই চাষীদের সত্যিকারের কোন উপকার হবে বলে আমি বনে করি না। গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট রিপোর্টের পর রিপোর্ট বাচ্ছে। কিন্তু আমি বলবো—সেই Director of Agriculture-এর দ্বারা একটা যেটা লাদল থাকা উচিত—তা না তিনি কেবল কালিবাগ, কাগজ, কলম নিয়ে তাঁর department চালান, এবং তাতে কেবল কাগজই ভর্তি হয়।

আমি কিছুদিন আগে কয়েকটা জরি সম্পর্কে, নিম্নতন অফিসার থেকে আরম্ভ করে উচ্চতন অফিসারদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চেষ্টা করেছিলাম। কিন্তু কোন ফল হয়নি। যেখানে পূর্বের বৎসর কৃষি পচিশ হাজার টাকা খরচ করলে সেই সমস্ত জরিগুলি চাষোপযোগী হতে পারতো, তার পরিবর্তে লিখিত ও নক্সা করে দেওয়ার পরেও যা ফল হয়েছে সেটা আমরা বুঝিতে পারি না। ডিপার্টমেন্টের অফিসারদের কাছে কিছু বলতে গেলে, তাঁরা সাধারণতঃ বলে থাকেন, “আমরা জানি না, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে যান, তিনি সব জানেন।” কিন্তু সেখানে যাওয়ারও অনেক অসুবিধা আছে। তাঁরা সদাসর্বদা ব্যস্ত থাকেন নিজেদের কাজ নিয়ে, এবং আমাদের সঙ্গে আলোচনা করার সময় ও সুবিধা তাঁদের হয় না।

গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি communal ratio বাদ দিয়ে, একটা স্তূট নীতির দ্বারা দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের জন্য—সে হিস্ট্রী হটক বা মুলারাইন হটক—সে একজন দরিদ্র কৃষক এই ভেবে, বাংলার কলম ও চাষের উন্নতি করতেই তাহলে সর্বোপেক্ষা বঙ্গলজনক কাজ এই বাজেটের দ্বারা সাধিত হ’ত। গভর্ণমেন্টের যে বর্তমান নীতি, সেটা পরিবর্তন করা একান্ত আবশ্যিক।

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নিকট হইতে জানতে পেরেছি যে গভর্ণমেন্ট একটা experimental scheme-এর পরিকল্পনা করেছেন। শ্রম দুশো একর পরিমাণ জরি একত্রে এই experimental scheme করিবার আয়োজন হচ্ছে, কিন্তু তাতে পুকুরিগুণি বন্ধ হয়ে জরি হবার যোগাড় হয়েছে। আমার বক্তব্য হচ্ছে যেখানে পুকুরিগুণি আছে সেগুলিকে জমিতে পরিণত না করা। পুকুরিগুণি বাদ দিয়ে যদি experiment করা যায় তাহলে এই পুকুরগুলির দ্বারা অনেক কিছু উপকার হ’তে পারে। পুকুরগুলির পাড়ে বিশেষ বিশেষ vegetable জন্মান যেতে পারে। আমার মনে হয় গভর্ণমেন্ট এদিকে দৃষ্টি দিলে বাংলাদেশে যে সমস্ত পুকুরিগুণি আছে সেগুলির দ্বারা বহুল পরিমাণে ফসল উৎপন্ন করা যেতে পারে। সত্যি কথা বলতে কি, আমরা প্রকৃতপক্ষে কৃষক; এবং আমাদের গায়েই গায়ে ঝিঁয়ে রাখবার মত কোন নীতি গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট দেখতে পাচ্ছি না।

Agriculture-এর জন্য যে সমস্ত loan দেওয়া হয়, সেই loan, long term-এ হওয়া উচিত—এবং তার কোন সুদ থাকবে না। কিন্তু এর কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। যখন দেশের গরীব চাষী বন্যার ডেলে বাচ্ছিল ভরন ডিল্ট্রি ব্যাঙ্কিটের নিকট বলা হ’ল তাদের একটা উপায় করতে, কিন্তু তিনি সেখানে যাবার কোন আগ্রহ দেখালেন না। কাজেই চাষীকে ঝাঁচাবার জন্য এটা agriculture বাজেট নয়, এটা হচ্ছে গভর্ণ-মেন্টের আগুতার থেকে কিছু লোককে পোষবার বাজেট।

আমি আর বেশী কথা বলতে চাই না। নীল বাতি অলোছে, আমি লালবাতি আলাতে চাই না; কারণ গভর্ণ-মেন্টের লালবাতি বহু পূর্বেরই অলো গেছে। Agricultural Department-এর লালবাতি অলোছে। আমার শেষ কথা হচ্ছে গভর্ণমেন্টের ডিপার্টমেন্ট যে সমস্ত corruption আছে সেগুলি দূর করার জন্য Departmental Head-এর বিশেষ করে চেষ্টা করা উচিত। Agricultural Department-এর Directors, বীরা জেলায় জেলায় আছে—তাঁরা এই রকম বনোভাব নিয়ে যদি গ্রামে গ্রামে চাষীদের কাণে বজর মত বলে দিতে পারেন তাহলে প্রকৃত ব-বস্থা হতে পারে। তাদের নিকট স্বাধীনভাবে উপস্থিত হয়ে, তাদের দুঃখের কাহিনী শুনে, যদি তাঁর প্রতিকার করতে পারেন, তবেই প্রকৃতপক্ষে তাদের দুঃখ দূর হবে। আমি লাল-বাতি দেখতে চাই না বলে বসে পড়লাম।

Mr. NURAZZAMAN : মাননীয় শ্রীকার মহোদয়, আমরা কৃষিশ্রমের দেশের নোংরা। কৃষি আমাদের সর্বপ্রধান অবলম্বন। কৃষক ও কৃষিই প্রকৃত পক্ষে দেশের বেক্সও। তাইবাঁই ধানশস্য ও ধন সম্পদ উৎপন্ন করে এবং আমাদের কোটি কোটি লোকের জীবন রক্ষা করে। আমাদের দেশকে ধানশস্য উৎপাদনে সর্বোপেক্ষা স্বয়ং-সম্পূর্ণ করিতে হইবে এবং উচ্চ জনসংখ্যার সবচেয়ে বেশী টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিতে হইবে। নতুন প্রতি বৎসর শ্রুতিক

নিবারণকল্পে কোটি কোটি টাকা ব্যয় করার কোন হুজি ও সাক্ষ্য কারণ নাই, এবং ইহা অনুজিও কথ্য নহে। কোন কোন উপায় অবলম্বন করিলে কৃষির সর্বজনীন উন্নতিসাধন হইতে পারে তত্ত্বজ্ঞান বিপুল গবেষণা ও প্রচেষ্টার প্রয়োজন।

সরকারের সর্বপ্রধান দায়িত্ব ও কর্তব্য হইল দেশের জনসাধারণকে বাঙালীরা পরাইয়া বাঁচাইয়া রাখা। এই সেদিন দেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক অন্যদ্বারে ছুটি কুঁ করে কীট পতঙ্গের ন্যায় এখানে সেখানে পড়িয়া বসিয়া পেল। বাহ্যতঃ দৃশ্য আছে তাহার। সেই করুণ অসুখ দৃশ্য কখনও ভুলিবে না। কিন্তু বাহ্যতঃ উপর দেশেরকার গুরু দায়িত্ব অধিত্ব আছে তাহাঙ্গণিক আবেগ সচেতন ও তীব্র হইতে হইবে। মানুষকে সর্বাপেক্ষ মানুষের ন্যায় বাইতে পরিতে শিখিতে হইবে। তাহার পর অপর সব কথা। *Bengal lives in villages*—আজও বাংলার সর্বত্র, গ্রামে গ্রামে, লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক অন্যদ্বারে বা অর্ধদ্বারে দিন কাটায়েছে, কিন্তু কে তাহার বোঝ রাখে? স্বাধপন, নিষ্ঠুর ও নিষ্ঠুর বনিক ও বনিক শ্রেণী, তাহার একবার চক্ষু বেরিয়াও দেখিতেছেন না। দিন দিন গ্রাম্যকল্যাণের অচেতন পিকড় যেন আরও নজ হইতে চলিয়াছে। সামুদ্রিক বিভাগ অতি দ্রুত গতিতে চলিতেছে। আবার দৃত্তিক উচ্চাধিকারি যাহায়েছে। কিন্তু আবার আশাবাদী (optimist), কাজেই আশা করিতে হইবে মানবীয় স্বাধী বহোদয়গণ দৃত্তিকজনন বহাগজকে আর দেশের ত্রিসীমার আসতে দিবেন না।

১৯৪৩ সালে যে দৃত্তিক হইয়াছিল তাহা বন্দী নহে, তাহা দরিত্রের বটে। দরিত্র স্বপ্ন ও লীলাবতী কারের লোকেরা অর্ধাভাবে চোখাবাটারের অতি উচ্চ স্থানের বাসা ত্রা ত্রা করিতে না পারায়, অন্যদ্বারে বৃত্ত বহাগ করিয়াছে। নিত্য-প্রয়োজনীয় বাস্য ত্রব্যের মূল্য দিন দিন কেবল বৃদ্ধি পাইতে থাকিলে দরিত্র জনসাধারণের অবস্থা ত্রাণ: পোচনীয় হইতে পোচনীয়তর অবস্থার দীড়াইবে। "A stitch in time saves nine"—কাজেই সরকারকে সময় থাকিতেই বিশেষ সতর্ক হইতে হইবে, পুচুর বাসাদান্য সংগ্রহ করিতে ও উচ্চায় মূল্য কমানিয়া দিতে হইবে। ইহাষ্ট দেশের বর্তমান সর্বপ্রধান ও জটিলতর সমস্যা। কৃষিই আমাদের জীবন। কিন্তু কৃষি ও কৃষকের উন্নতিসাধনকল্পে বাজেটে যে পরিমাণ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দকরা হইয়াছে তাহা বাস্তবিকই প্রয়োজনের ও গুরুত্বের তুলনায় অতি সামান্য। সর্বত্রই "তেল মাগায় তেল কেওয়া নীতি" অবলম্বন করা হইয়াছে ("to carry coal to New castle")।

নিম্ন শিকা বাধ্যকারী করিতে হইবে এবং উচ্চাভে লক্ষ্যকারীভাবে কৃষি শিক্ষার বিপুল ব্যাপক বন্দোবস্ত করিতে হইবে। বাংলার পক্ষে ইহা বড়ই লজ্জাজনক ও অপৌরুষের কথা যে আজও বাংলার শতকরা ২০ জনের বেশী লোক লিখিতে পড়িতে পারে না। নিম্ন শিক্ষার বাজেট অতি ক্ষুদ্র। কৃষিকর্মকে আর ঘের ও হীন কর্তব্য মনে না করিয়া উচ্চাভে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কর্তব্য বলিয়া, বাঙালীতে দৃঢ়তর স্থান দিতে চাইবে এবং ইহাকে বাস্তবায়ন জীবন বহাগের পুণ্য বলিয়া ভাবিতে হইবে। বিজ্ঞানকে শুধু মানুষ বাহার কাছো প্রয়োগ না করিয়া কৃষির উন্নতির কাছো ও মানবরক্ষার কাছো ব্যাপকভাবে নিবেগন করিতে চাইবে। কৃষির উন্নতিকল্পে সেচ বিভাগের উন্নতিসাধনও একান্ত প্রয়োজন। দেশে যে সমস্ত জমি আছে তাহা উত্তমরূপে ও উন্নত শ্রমাবলীতে চাষাবাদ হইলে বেশ সবুজই স্বয়ং-সম্পূর্ণ (self-sufficient) হইতে পারে। সত্যতা: কি উপায় অবলম্বন করিলে ত্রুটিতে বেশী পরিমাণ ফসল উৎপন্ন হইতে পারে সেদিকে সর্বপ্রথম বেশী নজর রাখিতে চাইবে। প্রত্যেক কৃষকেই কৃষি সম্বন্ধে নিত্য নিত্য নতুন নতুন জ্ঞানলাভ করিবার সুযোগ ও সুবিধা দিতে হইবে, এবং সরকারকে এ সম্পর্কে সমস্ত বন্দোবস্ত করিতে চাইবে। প্রয়োজন হইলে কেন্দ্রে কেন্দ্রে কৃষি ও কৃষকের শিক্ষার জন্য কৃষিট্রিনি: ক্যান্সা স্থাপিত হইবে, এবং কৃষি ভুল ও কলোজের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি করিতে হইবে। কৃষক শ্রেণীর সর্বশুকতারের দাবী শাওয়া সর্বত্র সর্বাপেক্ষ পূরণ করিতে হইবে। প্রত্যেক কৃষকেই কিছু কিছু লিখিতে পড়িতে শিকা দিতে চাইবে এবং কৃষি সম্বন্ধীয় সকল ও সমস্ত পুস্তিকাকি কৃষক মহলে দেশের সর্বত্র ব্যাপকভাবে বিতরণ করিতে চাইবে ও তাহাঙ্গণিক উত্তমরূপে কৃষি সম্বন্ধে উপদেশ ও শিক্ষা দিতে চাইবে। বরভ্রমেরও নিবারণতা পূর করিতে চাইবে। দৃত্তিক দেশে উপস্থিত হইলে তাহা প্রতিরোধের চেষ্টা করা অপেক্ষা, উচ্চা বাহাতে আবির্ভাব হইতে না পারে তত্ত্বজ্ঞান প্রাপণপণ চেষ্টা করিতে হইবে। কৃষির সর্বজনীন ও সর্ববিধ ব্যাপক উন্নতিসাধন এবং উৎপন্ন বাসাদান্যের দেশে উত্তমরূপে বক্ষ্যাব্যেকপট উচ্চা প্রতিরোধের বিশেষ উপায় বটে। এখন আর আশুবাস্তবতা কাজ করিলে চলিবে না। কোনটা আগে করণীয় সে বিষয় বিশেষ সতর্কতার সহিত বিধান করিতে হইবে। "ঘোড়ার আগে গাড়ী জোড়ার" মূল "putting the cart before the horse" চলিয়া গিয়াছে। বাস্তব চাক-চিকার কথায় আর কেউ ভুলবে না। "Prevention is better than cure"—এই কথা সর্বত্র সুগঠন রাখিতে চাইবে। সরকারী ও বেসরকারী সকল লোককেই সর্বপ্রথম কৃষক ও কৃষির উন্নতির কথা ভাবতে হবে সবচেয়ে বেশী। দেশে পুচুর বাসাদান্য না জমাটিলে ও উৎপন্ন নশে ভালভাবে রক্ষিত না হইলে কোন মুহূর্তে ভরসাও করা যায় না। উচ্চাভীত দেশের লোককে বাঁচাইতে হইলে, গ্রাম্যকল্যাণ, প্রোফিটমারি ও মোজিৎকে কঠোর হস্তে সম্মুখ দমন করিতে হইবে।

সমর অল্প বলে আমি এইটুকু যাত্র ইঙ্গিত করিলাম এবং বাজেটের দাবী সমর্থন করিলাম ভবিষ্যতের উত্তর
আশায়।

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: The motion of my friend Mr. Mandal which I rise to support embraces all food crops but time will not permit me to deal with anything but our staple food crop, rice, and that also in its production aspect only. The annual production of rice in Bengal estimated at an average of 81 lakh tons over the period 1928-1942 was short of our requirements practically ever since 1936. Yet strangely enough it was not until imports were cut off from Burma and a shadow of the famine sprawled itself over Bengal and other areas that the movement for the "Grow More Food" Campaign gathered impetus and even then at the instigation of, and the financial subsidisation by, the Government of India. Three full years have elapsed since then and what have we achieved?

Our food requirements, say in 1946, may be computed as follows:— Food for six crores at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per head per annum 101 lakh tons. Food for increase of population at the rate of one per cent. per annum for five years, say 5 lakh tons. Seed requirements at the rate of 1.77 tons per 100 acres for about 27 million acres say another 5 lakh tons. This gives us a total requirement of 111 lakh tons while production in 1946 was about 96 lakh tons or 15 lakh tons short of requirement. The "Grow More Food" Campaign for three years, therefore has not improved our food position. Over the three years from 1943-44 to 1945-46 Government spent nearly Rs.240 lakhs on the "Grow More Food" Campaign and the result has been not only no increase in the total production but also a reduction in yield which was 44 ton in 1943-44 and has come down to 35 ton in 1944-45 and 1945-46. On a careful study of the Budget, Sir, I find that there are two things for which the Government can legitimately take credit for having assisted them to grow and multiply, namely, goats and Muslim officers. I do not know which is growing at a faster pace. The question naturally arises, Sir, as to why the "Grow More Food" Campaign should have yielded such poor results. I would ask you to have a cursory glance at the demand for Agriculture. Out of a total demand of 253 lakhs in 1946-47, 203 lakhs I believe are accounted for by three sub-heads. Agricultural demonstration and propaganda 109 lakhs, agricultural development 67 lakhs and development programme 27 lakhs. I will also draw your attention, Sir, to an item of expenditure under special rural uplift scheme of 2,71,000 of which 2,07,000 are accounted for by contingencies alone. I think it is highly irregular to ask this House to vote such large supplies without giving it any idea of the schemes in question. The same observations apply to agricultural experiments and research and agricultural education. Of the three major sub-heads mentioned I will presently have something to say about development programme. The sub-head "agricultural development" is a euphemism for staff and establishment maintained for the regulation of jute under the Bengal Jute Regulation Act. Of the 109 lakhs under agricultural demonstration and propaganda 101 lakhs are accounted for by the "Grow More Food" Campaign. There are certain traits about this expenditure to which I would like to draw your attention. First, the inordinate cost of establishment. Nearly 20 lakhs or 20 per cent. is accounted for by establishment cost. I am prepared to concede that in certain cases establishment cost may be high. But what I will ask you, Sir, is to examine for yourself and say whether the establishment costs in relation to services rendered in respect of the following schemes appear reasonable:—

(1) Scheme for distribution of cold weather vegetable seeds and seedlings.

1946-47.

				Rs.
Cost of seeds	...	...	...	77,000
Establishment	...	...	...	88,000

1947-48.

	Ra.
Cost of seeds	80,000
Establishment	1,00,000

(2) Scheme for distribution of papaya seedlings.

1946-47.

	Ra.
Cost of seedlings	4,000
Establishment	18,000

(3) Scheme for distribution of improved sugarcane cuttings.

1947-48

	Ra.
Cost of sugarcane cuttings	28,000
Establishment	50,000

I need not cite more instances but I trust you will appreciate the point that I have been trying to make out.

In the second place, many of the schemes for which only establishment expenditure has to be incurred appear to be wasteful and unnecessary. For example—

(1) Scheme for establishment of seed stores in Bengal

		Ra
Establishment	1946-47	651,000
	1947-48	7 Lakhs.

I do not know what benefit is expected out of this scheme particularly as there is no provision for distribution of seeds in the budget estimates for 1947-48.

(2) Purchase of lorries for distribution of seeds and manures.

1946-47	Rs. 80,000	1947-48	Rs. 80,000
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I doubt if this expenditure is justified. Probably the reason is that opportunities will be found for the employment of members of a particular community. Even then they are drawn from other Provinces than Bengal.

(3) Scheme for cultivation of vacant land attached to residential and non-residential Government buildings.

		Ra.
Only establishment cost	1946-47	52,000
	1947-48	52,000

I ask you, Sir, for whose benefit is this expenditure being incurred.

In the third place, about Rs.25 lakhs were spent by Government on distribution of seeds in 1946-47. This would have certainly constituted a desirable expenditure but there are two facts to be considered. First, as is well-known, seeds are not at all properly distributed. Secondly, there is

ample scope for misappropriation of public money. If honourable members will refer to page 142 of the Appropriation Accounts for 1944-45, which was recently circulated, they will, Sir, find out how Government have sustained a loss of about 2½ lakhs under the scheme of distribution of wheat seeds in 1943-44. I may also add that even as early as 1938, the Bengal Rice and Paddy Enquiry Committee observed that departmental work in connection with distribution of seeds "has been hitherto most perfunctory and inadequate". Things unfortunately have not improved even now.

Even this rather cursory examination of expenditure on the "Grow More Food" Campaign will provide sufficient grounds by way of explanation as to why the campaign has not yielded any results whatsoever. Yet, the problems of agricultural improvement are only too well-known and have already been discussed *ad nauseum*. In so far as increase of production of food crops is concerned, the Food (Grains) Policy Committee presided over by Sir Theodore Gregory pointed out that this could be done in three ways, viz., (a) increasing the output of existing areas by intensive cultivation, (b) replacing unwanted crops by food crops and this is the object of the Bengal Jute Regulation Act of 1940, and (c) bringing fresh lands under cultivation. First as to yield. It is deplorable that the yield of rice per acre in 1945-46 was 915 lbs. in Bombay, 861 lbs. in Madras, 852 lbs. in Assam but only 806 lbs. in Bengal. United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa have lower yield but I do not think it will be Government's contention that they are competing for the lowest position. It may interest honourable members to know that Dr. Burns in his "Memorandum on Technological Possibilities of Agricultural Development in India" states that, at a conservative estimate, the yield of rice can be increased by thirty per cent., viz., 5 per cent. by using improved varieties of seeds, 20 per cent. by increasing manure and 5 per cent. by protecting from pests and diseases. He adds that there should even be no difficulty in increasing present average outturn by 50 per cent., viz., 10 per cent. by variety and 40 per cent. by manuring. An increase of even 10 to 15 per cent. in yield would make Bengal self-sufficient in rice even without any extension of cultivation. In actual practice, however, the yield per acre in Bengal shows signs of decline.

As to bringing fresh lands under cultivation. The cultivable waste other than fallow in Bengal is about 6 million acres. Its problems are also well-known. The primary needs are irrigation in Western Bengal and some districts of Central and Northern Bengal and adequate drainage facilities in Eastern Bengal and several districts in Central and Northern Bengal. As to Irrigation, the Royal Commission on Agriculture observed in 1928: "No general survey of the irrigation possibilities of Bengal has yet been made". And I believe the position remains much the same even after the lapse of 2 more decades. Practically nothing again is being done to reclaim vast water-logged wastes which are expanding due to the meandering and decay of rivers and wrong alignment of roads and railways."

Time will not permit me to do more than just mention a matter of great importance on which the Famine Enquiry Commission had laid great emphasis, viz., the imperative necessity of increasing the supply of protective foods such as pulses, milk and fish. Incidentally, could the Hon'ble Minister enlighten us if Mr. Elmhirst, whose services Mr. Casey had requisitioned, had formulated any worthwhile scheme or policy, and if so, what has happened to that? As to the development programme of the Department, it does not include any substantial scheme for either improvement or the extension of production of rice. Further, as I have already explained in another context the Bengal Government would do well not to rely too much upon curtaining Central assistance for financing their development projects. Honourable members may also be interested to know that the Government of India have already warned the Bengal Government that their proposed development expenditure is beyond their resources. Look

wherever you will, Sir, into the Agricultural Budget, you will hardly discover any indication of a comprehensive policy or plan. The department lacks any purposeful drive or progressive direction. This is probably due to the fact that the Director of Agriculture is not a technical man and can therefore have but little appreciation of the urgent need as also of potentialities of projects of scientific improvement. It may be that the Government are not interested in these questions. All that they care for is the multiplication of goats and Muslim officers. This the Director is doing very efficiently. I do not know about the domicile of the goats but many of the Muslim officers, I understand,—and my friends opposite should take note of this—have been recruited from other Provinces. I understand that all the 7 posts in the Bengal Agricultural Service filled up by direct appointment since April, 1946, have gone to non-Bengalis. Inclusive of the Director a large number of Muslim officers in this department has had this unfortunate effect that the agricultural needs and problems of this province are not fully appreciated. It is no wonder that the Director is not in touch with the pulse of the countryside. So engrossed is he in activities other than development work that I have it on unimpeachable authority that the Director behaved very discourteously to a member of this House who had gone to see the Hon'ble Minister and in the Minister's presence. It is no wonder that the impression has gone around that the Hon'ble Minister is a mere puppet in the hands of the Director.

The Government are again following a policy of non-co-operation with the Centre. Little need the Centre care or worry about this. For, it is not the Centre but Bengal who has to beg on bended knees for food and subvention. The only effect of non-co-operation by Bengal is that she is deprived of her share in the benefits of centrally sponsored schemes. Sir, I am just reminded of a proverb. It is this, "Whom the gods want to destroy they first turn him mad." I believe that not only the Agricultural Department but the Government of Bengal appears to be undergoing that dangerous process of transformation.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

MR. FAKIR ABDUL MANNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, eighty per cent. of the population of this Province are agriculturists. The aim and object of all law and legislation is to do the greatest good to the greatest number but unfortunately the agriculturists of this province have always been neglected. Even today we find that not even the five per cent. of the total budgeted estimate is going to be spent for the improvement of the lot of the agriculturists who have become so poor. Nowadays the average agriculturist cannot even, inspite of his hard work for the whole day, have two meals a day to keep his body and soul together.

The Agriculture Department came into existence many years ago but, unfortunately, some foreign experts were placed at the head of the department but the result was not as expected. These experts could not understand the intricate problems of the country and as such no improvement whatsoever could be made in the department. Of late we find that some extensions have been made in the department. A large number of officers have been absorbed from the Jute Regulation Department but these officers have got no training whatsoever and as a result they are practically of no use to the agriculturists. These officers should be trained in small batches during the off season because the services of these officers are not always required in the mofussil. Moreover, these officers are very ill-paid. They have got no office and as such they cannot discharge their duties properly and they also do not know whether they will be retained because they have not been yet made permanent.

We find that research is going on in this Department for a very long time but the result of the researches cannot reach the villagers—the cultivators—who should have been benefited by them. There is no proper machinery for giving the illiterate cultivators the necessary knowledge about the research work that is being done at his cost. Proper propaganda work should be taken up by this Department, especially by the officers who are in direct touch with the real agriculturists. The poverty of the agriculturists means poverty to the largest number of people in this country. So, unless the condition of the agriculturists can be improved there is no hope for the improvement of the Province as a whole.

Further, we see that there is no proper supervision of the work of the officers who are in direct touch with the villagers. There is one set of officers who sit only in the office and they work out their schemes on paper without knowing what will be the ultimate result of their work. But the other set who are in constant touch with the agriculturists have got no special knowledge about agriculture. Soil survey which can be said to be the A, B, C of agriculture has not yet been taken up on any scientific basis in this country. The agriculturists are illiterate and do not know what crops will grow more on what land and what crop will give the best economic return. So it is necessary that research and soil survey should be taken up on scientific basis and it should be done without delay.

As regards seed distribution, as has been said, it is not at all satisfactory. The area of a thana in the mofussil is so big that every thana covers an area of more than one hundred square miles. The officers who sit in the thana with the seeds do not go to the localities concerned and as such the agriculturist who resides in the distant corner does not know and cannot take the seeds. Moreover, we have seen that most of the seeds are so bad that when those are actually sown on the lands, the agriculturists instead of getting any benefit become losers because most of these seeds do not germinate at all.

(The member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech.)

Much anger has been shown against the appointment of Muslim officers in this department. Everybody knows that most of the agriculturists are Muslim. In this department also, Muslims have not got more than their legitimate quota. The very fact that even the appointment of a just quota of Muslims cannot be tolerated by the gentlemen who call themselves to be nationalists shows who are really communal—whether the Muslim League or those who claim to be nationalists.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় প্রমুখ বহোদয়, আমি আজ এখানে মানুষের একটা আদমি বৃত্তির কথা বলবো। এই বিশ শতাব্দীতে আজ লক্ষ লক্ষ বৎসর পরেও এত সভ্যতার সুগে আদমি সেই আদমি বৃত্তিকে পরিচিতি করতে পারিনি। সেটা হচ্ছে আদমির ক্ষুধা—বুড়ুকা।

ডায়নের আপনাদের কাছে আমি আর একটা কথা বলবো। প্রতিদিন তুই হিন্দু চাকরী বেশী পাবে, না, মুসলমান চাকরী বেশী পাবে? অর্থাৎ দাসের বোঝা হিন্দুর ঘাড়ে বেশী চাপবে, না, মুসলমানের ঘাড়ে বেশী চাপবে? আমি দাসের কথা বলবো না। আমি বলবো তুমি কুখার কথা। পেট সকলেরই সমান। হিন্দু বড়ই পা'ক ডার প্রয়োজনের বেশী সে বেতে পারে না, আর মুসলমানও তার পেটে বা বত্রে তার বেশী সে বেতে পারে না। সুতরাং দেখা যাচ্ছে যে কুখার ক্ষেত্রে আদমির লড়াই নাই।

আবার পূর্ণ বর্ষী বজা কিশুর চমক যদি ম'নার বলেছেন যে ডিরেক্টরের হাতে লাঠল দিতে হবে। সাবধান! আদমি লাঠল ধরলে পুরুন পারে বা হয়ে বার, আর Directorএর হাতে লাঠল দিল কেউ চমকে না, চমকে আদমির ডিটে (Laughter)। এ সম্বন্ধে আদমির সাবধান হতে হবে। আদমির বিবল কুখার বোঝা ম'নার বড় বড় অভয় কথা বলেছেন—চাকার অভয় কথা। আমি কুখ পাড়াপেরে মানুষ অত চাক। কমলাও করতে পারি না। আমি ছোট ছোট কুখার তুমি বু-একটা কথা বলবো। বর্ষী ম'নার জন্মের না আমি তাঁকে রেবাই দেখ। আদমি এখানে দিবা বুন্দো হরিদাস তনুতে আদমি, দাস শিরে কীর্জের দল খালি করেছি।

Agriculture-এর সবও কাজ করিয়ে তবে ছাড়বে। বসে বসে বাইনে খাবার দিন আর নাই। এটা মুখেই যে পরিকল্পনা করতে হয় করবেন, আবারে কাছে কোন পরিকল্পনা চাইবেন না। আবারের বিত্তে হবে তত্ত্ব বাঁচবার শান। পরিকল্পনা শেষার জন্য যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ টাকা লিয়ে যথেষ্ট লোক লাগা হয়েছে।

বিলল বাবু বলছেন যে গভর্নমেন্টের Accountant Department-এর খাতিয় বেরিয়েছে, seed-এর জন্য যে টাকা ব্যয় করা হয়েছিল, seed বিক্রী করে তার সব টাকা উঠে নাই। উঠবে কেন? আমরা কি জানি না যে seed মোটেই ক্ষেতে গজায় নাই—গজাজে Seed Department-এর বাছের খাতিয়। আর কৃষকদের কাছে টাকা চাইলে তারা টাকা দেবে কেন? তারা কলস তেঁবে টাকা দেবে, নইলে টাকা দিতে পারে না। টাকার বললে যে আর কিছু প্রাপ্য শেষ নাই সেই ভাণ্ডা।

Goat Multiplication-এর অনেক কথা পোনান হয়েছে। আমরা মীত নাই, কাজেই বাসে খাওয়ায় দিন আর নাই। আগে যেখানে দু-আনা করে আবারের সেনে বাসের সেরে দেওয়া, গভর্নমেন্ট বাবু আনা, চৌক আনা করে বাসে দেওয়া, আর এই Goat Multiplication-এর পরে দেওয়া দেওয়া টাকা, দু-টাকা, আড়াই টাকা, কলকাতায় তিন টাকা সের হয়ে গেল। এই Goat Multiplication-এর Goat গুলির বাসে কে খেলে? (A Voice সব মন্ত্রী ধরে ফেললো।) মন্ত্রীরা খেলে, কি, কে খেলে বলতে পারি না। (Laughter) আপনারা যে কেউ একজন বেয়েছেন। নইলে আমরা পাই না কেন?

তারপর বলছেন “Horticulture-এর জন্য যথেষ্ট টাকা ব্যয় করেছে”। হ্যাঁ, তার জন্য বিশেষ করে পেন্সনের বীজের জন্য হাজার হাজার টাকা ব্যয় করেছেন সত্য। কিন্তু আজও কলকাতায় কাঁচা পেন্সন চার আনার কম সের পাওয়া যায় না। মন্ত্রী ম’শায় পেন্সনের seed ট্রো বহু লান করেছেন, কিন্তু সেগুলি গেল কোথায়? তাতে কি পেন্সনের গাছ হ’ল না, না পেন্সন হ’ল না? কি হ’ল, আমি এটা বুঝে উঠতে পারি না। (A Voice : সব মন্ত্রী গাছ হয়েচে।) হরিপদ বাবু বলছেন সব নাকি মন্দা গাছ হয়েচে। মন্দা গাছ যদি হয়ে থাকে আমরা জানি মন্দা গাছকে কি করে বেয়ে গাছ করা যায়। একজন বলছেন আমাদের বাংলার পুষ্করমন্ড নাকি মেয়ে করা যেতে পারত। যত লোক Agriculture Department-এ চাকরী করে, তারা যদি সত্ৰাকারের লেখা-পড়া জানতো, তবে মন্দা পেন্সন গাছ হ’তো কিন্তু মন্দা মানুষ যেহেতু বহন শুল্ল হ’তো না।

তারপর দেখছি চালের শার ট্রো ফ্রেন্ডি বেড়ে যাচ্ছে। তাতে কৃষকের উন্নতি হচ্ছে কি? হচ্ছে কি না জানি না। গত বছর দেখছি চালের কারবার ইন্সট্যান্ডেন্সের কোম্পানী যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ অর্থ উপার্জন করেছে। কিন্তু অনেক চাল ও গুণের পাচে গেল। তার জন্য Agriculture Department-এ যারা Expert আছে, তার জন্য তারা কি করেছে? প্রতি বছর বহু চাল পোকায় ধ্বংস হ’লে, তারা কি তার প্রতিরোধের ব্যবস্থা করতে পারেনা? শেষকালে শ্রীর হাতে বেশনা হয়ে গেল চালের পোকা বাড়তে বাড়তে। বলি আপনারা যদি Agriculture Department-এ হাতীর হাত লোক পুষছেন, তারা কি চালের পোকাগুলো দূর করার কোন ব্যবস্থা করতে পারেন না?

তারপর কলকাতার লোক বড়লোক আপনারা, নৈনিতালের বড় বড় আলু খান, আমরা উত্তর বঙ্গের ছোট লোক ছোট ছোট আলু খাই। সেই আলু পাচে যাচ্ছে। আমাদের মন্ত্রী ম’শায় আলুর চাষ করতে পারেন কিন্তু আলুর পোকা নিবারণ করতে পারেন না। আর যে আলু কিনেছি এক পরশা দু-পরশা সের, আজ সেই আলু কিনছি চার আনা পাঁচ আনা সের। আর যেটা মিষ্টি আলু—কাঁচা বাওয়া যায়—গোল আলুর হাত নর—ভুটিকের সময় তা খেয়ে কত লোক বেঁচেছে, সেই আলুর গাছ হয়েছে আজকাল আট পরশা, দশ পরশা, আর পরশা সের। সরকারী আমরা বলে না আলু ক্ষেতে ক’লে। কাজেই কৃষকের ঘরে পরশা যায়, গাছ বেড়ে যায়, বিখ্যা কথা। কারণ তাদের অনেক আলুর চাষ তুলে দিচ্ছে, কেন না গভর্নমেন্টের এই সব ধরনের আয়েরই শেষ করতে পারেন কিন্তু আলুর পোকা যারতে জায়েন না। গভর্নমেন্টের সেলিক মোটেই লক্ষ্য সেই। আমরা উঁয়া বলে বেড়ান “আমরা কৃষকের উন্নতি করছি”। আমরা শুঁ তার কিছু দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। গভর্নমেন্ট পাঁচ থেকে Agriculturist জানছেন। তাঁরা বাংলা জানেন না, ওজনুখী জানা জানেন। তাঁরা সোভারভিট লোকের সাথে কথাবার্তা বলতে পারেন না। অথচ বাংলায়—সকল বাংলার ছেপে ছেপে সেনে কাপড় বিলি করে নেওয়া হ’লে এই কাজ কর, এই কাজ কর, এইছপতায় উপদেশ দিলে হয়তো কৃষির উন্নতি হতে পারে, কিন্তু এ সোজা কাজে তাঁরা হাত দিবেন না।

Imperial Research Institute-এর কৃষিবিষয়ক বড় বড় বই হ’ল মন্ত্রী ম’শায় পড়েন নাই, (A Voice : পড়েনও না, বোঝেনও না।) পরশা লিয়ে “কৃষিকা” বের করেন ওঁরা। বলি তার জাণা

কৃষকের বোঝা ও দূরের কথা, আমরাও অনেক সময় বুঝতে পারি না, এতদিন পর্যন্ত বাংলা গড়েও। কাজেই এই কথা বলছি যে আমাদের পেটে যে ভাত থাকবে, তা মুসলমানের পেটেও থাকবে, তাহ'লে আর হিন্দু-মুসলমানের কাষড়াকানড়ি যারামারি চলবে না। আমরা শুধু চাই কুবার জন্য পেটে ভাত। আর চাকরী চাই পেটের কুখা দূর করার জন্য। তাই বরী ম'শায়কে অনুরোধ করছি, আপনাদের সকলের কাছে হাত জোড় করে বলছি যে এদেশ থেকে Communal Ratio তুলে দিন এবং যদি দেশের উপকার করার ইচ্ছা থাকে তাহ'লে আমাদের পেটটা আগে ভরে দিন এবং পেট ভরা থাকলে কেউ গোলামগিরি করবে না, আমরা তো কাষড়াকানড়ি করবে না, করতে হয় তো আপনাবাই করবেন। তাই বলছি Agriculture Department-এর যাতে সত্যিকার উন্নতি হয় তার জন্য চেষ্টা করুন।

আর একটা কথা বলছি। আমাদের দেশে অর্থাৎ উত্তর বঙ্গে ভাল নারকেল হয় না। গাছ লাগালেও পোকায় মরে যায়, আমরা নারকেলের জল খেতে পাই না। বরী ম'শায় অনুগ্রহ করে যদি আমাদের জন্য নারকেল গাছের ব্যবস্থা করেন, তাহ'লে নারকেলের জল পান করে কৃতার্থ হয়ে থাকবো। তাঁরও বাড়ী উত্তর বঙ্গে—তিনিও নারিকেলের জল পানেন শুধু দেবতা খাবেন না।

তারপর উরু Dry Cow-এর কথা বলছেন। কাঁচড়াপাড়া না কোথায় তা রাখবেন। তাতে তাঁরা কি দুধের দাম সত্তা করতে পেরেছেন? যে জলের দুধ খেতাম, এখনও তাই খাচ্ছি। গরুর দুধ ত খেলায় না, কেবল গরুর ও বরী ম'শায়দের চাচা খেয়েই গোলাম। এবার তাঁদের বলছি আমাদের একটি ভাল দুধ খাওয়াবেন।

(Dr. Abdul Ahad rose to speak.)

MR. SPEAKER: I thought you will speak on Veterinary.

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: I have got something also to say on Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot speak twice when there are so many Speakers on the list. If you want to speak please confine your speech to Agriculture. You better speak on Veterinary.

MR. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালের বাজেটে দেখা গেল যে এই কৃষি খাতে টাকা খরচ হয়েছিল ২ কোটি ৬ লক্ষ টাকা। তারপর আমরা আসবার পর যে বাজেট আমাদের সামনে গত জুলাই মাসে আনা হয়েছিল তাতে দেখা গেল যে এই খাতে খরচ হয়েছিল ৩ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টাকা। আগের বারে যে কাজ হয়েছিল তার চেয়ে সেড়ি গুণ কাজ হবে বলে এত বেশী নীতিবাহ প্রয়োজন। এভাবে যে Revised বাজেট পাশ করা হ'ল তাতে দেখা গিয়েছে যে বরী সাহেব ৩ কোটি ৭২ লক্ষ টাকা দিয়েছিলেন; তার থেকে ২ কোটি ৬৫ লক্ষ টাকা বায় করলেন অর্থাৎ এক কোটি ৭ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করতে পারলেন না। তাঁর কৈফিয়ত দিবার বিশেষ কিছু আছে বলে আমার মনে হয় না। তাঁর তরফ থেকে একটা কৈফিয়ত দিতে পারেন। তা'বেশ হয় এই যে তিনি নিজের নির্গুচন কেন্দ্রে একটি Agricultural Institute করার জন্য ব্যস্ত ছিলেন। কাজেই এই টাকা খরচ করার সময় ছিল না। গভর্নমেন্ট আশা দিয়েছিলেন যে পাটের দাম বৃদ্ধি করতেন। বহু চেষ্টা করার পর পাটের দাম বাড়ল এমন সময় বরন চাষীদের হাতে পাট ছিল না। তারপর আশা দিয়েছিলেন প্রতি মহকুমায় এবং লামায় Jute Marketing Society করা হ'বে। সে সময়ে কোন scheme আঁটার সময় এমন পর্যাপ্ত পেশ করলেন না; অথচ দেখা যায় যে Agricultural Marketing নামে নামে টাকা বায় হ'চ্ছে। এই Agricultural Marketing Department খোলা হয়েছে ১৯৩৮ সালে। Statistics এবং figure হ'তে দেখা গিয়েছে যে দুজনের সময় কলিকাতায় আলু এবং পটল supply করা হয়েছে। (VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION: সেগুলো S. K. Ghose-কে supply করা হয়েছে। S. K. Ghose খেয়েছে।) কিন্তু এই Jute Marketing Department তাদের নাকি staff নেই বুনছি। এ সময়ে একটা suggestion দিতে চাই, কৃষি-বরী সাহেব দয়ত জামেন যে Jute Regulation Department-এর সবত কর্মচারী অফিসার হ'তে আরম্ভ করে P. L. A. পর্যন্ত বৎসবে এক মাস কাজ করেন এবং বাকী ১১ মাস চুপচাপ বসে কাটান। এই সব কর্মচারীদিকে ইচ্ছা করলেই এই জুট মার্কেটিং ডিপার্টমেন্টের কাজে লাগাতে পারেন। এক মাস তাঁরা কাজ করেন—সে হ'চ্ছে পাট বোনার পূর্ণ পর্যায়। এই Department-এর লোক নিয়ে যে Jute Marketing Society খোলার আশুদ দিয়েছিলেন সেটা শীঘ্রই খোলার ব্যবস্থা করুন। তারপর গতবার যে Jute Licence ট্রাক করা হয়েছিল এখানে তার চেয়ে সাবান্য বাড়ান হয়েছে। দেখা যায় ১৯৪৬ সালে যে পরিমাণ

পাটের ভৰি ঠিক করে দিয়েছিলেন, তার উপর কিছু বাড়ান হয়েছে। ১৯৪০ সালে যে বংশোদ্ভূত করা হয়েছে তা আর বাড়ানোর উপায় নেই। আশা করি এ সম্বন্ধে নীতি একটা বাসত্বা করবেন। তারপর দেখা যায় বকংমানে Seed Store খোলা হয়েছে। এই সম্বন্ধে Seed Store-এ যে seed পাওয়া যায় না সেটা আবার নিজের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। গত বৎসর যে ধান বীজ বহুপ দেখা হয়েছে তাতে আবার নিজেরই কড়ি হয়েছে। সাধা ইউনিয়নে বহু চাষীরও কড়ির পরিমাণ কম নয়। তাহা যে বীজ দিয়েছিল সে বীজে একটিকেও চাষা পড়ায় নাই। Seed Store-এর কর্তৃচরিত্র বদেন যে এজন্য তাহা লগী নম। এজন্য লগী উপবোধাদায়া ধারা Contractor appoint করেন। এইবার চিকা ধরা হয়েছে ও কোটি ৬৪ লক্ষ। তার কতটা বহুত হবে জানি না। মাননীয় শ্রীকাব, স্যার, আউস ধানের যে সব বীজ দেখা হয়েছে তা যোটেই ভাল নয়। প্রতি বৎসর বহু চিকা বহুত করার পর প্রায়ে পৌজায় বহুত্বিন পাবে। সেই বীজে যদি বা ফল কখনও ফোঁদ যায়গায় হয় তাহ'লে দেখা যায় তার পরিমাণ খুব কম অর্থাৎ যাকে বলে শেধ আবাদ। আশাশেধ পূর্বে যাতে পৌজায় তার বাসত্বা করবার জন্য আমি মাননীয় হস্তী সাহেবকে বিশেষ করে অনুশোধ করছি।

Mr. H. A. LUKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, jute is the mainstay of the economic structure of Bengal. That being so, it is of the utmost importance that the policy of Government with regard to jute should be sound. And, when I say jute, I am referring not only to the mill industry but to the cultivation of jute, the trade in raw jute, the manufacturing industry and the trade in jute manufactures and export of jute manufacture. The economic importance of jute in the province of Bengal lies in the fact that it is the main crop of the raiyats and because of the large numbers of people engaged in its marketing, grading, transport and manufacture, the large distribution of wages to all connected with the trade and industry and large revenue derived from raw jute tax and jute export duties. The Government and many honourable members seem to think that the mill industry is the enemy of jute growers and all others connected with raw jute trade are mere parasites. It appears to be on these false assumptions that Government has based its policy. Their policy appears to be based on the idea of getting higher prices for raw jute and ensuring that the cultivators get higher prices regardless of anything else. But such a policy to be successful has to take into consideration the world demand for jute and jute goods and has also to take into consideration world prices and supplies of possible substitutes. In that I believe Government have failed. They have not considered these factors. They have not considered the future but have thought only of obtaining higher prices for the sake of their own prestige in the jute districts, in other words, electioneering.

I would ask the honourable members to cast their minds back to the position at this time last year. The Defence of India Rules were still in force. The prices of jute and jute goods were still controlled. Then in March like a bolt from the blue came an announcement that on the 31st March the state of emergency would terminate. At that time the prices of jute were controlled as I said. Forward business was going on in the normal way in which jute business is usually conducted. That meant that business was being done for several months ahead and after the emergency passed on the 31st March, the control of prices would lapse on the 30th September. The Government were asked for a declaration of policy, but none was forthcoming. They had fixed the quota of sowings at eight annas of the standard acreage. Now the natural corollary of the control of production has been the control of prices, but the Government of Bengal failed to make any declaration of policy. In July, representatives of the whole trade and industry met the Chief Minister. He promised a declaration of policy by the end of July. End of July came but no declaration was forthcoming. End of August came; still there was no declaration. At this time business was at a standstill. At the end of September Government announced that they had decided to allow the controls to lapse. Prices immediately rocketed. The growers, it is true, benefited, and they got higher prices. But at whose expense? To begin with at least it was at the expense of those engaged in the raw jute trade. Thousands of Bengali

and other merchants have been ruined by the policy of Government. Crores of rupees have been lost. It is no advantage to the province to transfer money from the pockets of one section of the people to those of another. It merely impoverished one section for the benefit of another section, and in the long run the province suffered. That is what the Government of Bengal did.

Now, Sir, I turn to another aspect of the matter. Long before the end of the war it was obvious that at the conclusion of hostilities there would be a great demand for jute and jute goods. It was the duty of the Government of Bengal to be ready to meet that demand, but what did the Government do? They cut down the supplies, so that Bengal was unable to reap the profit because she had not got the goods. In the mean time those countries which were forced by war conditions to use substitutes are being compelled to develop and continue their use—compelled by the Government of Bengal to use substitutes for Bengal's jute. I know, Sir, that talk of substitutes is regarded in Government circles as a bogey to frighten children. But the threat of substitutes is real. Every country in the world during the war was using substitutes of some kind, and they will continue to develop these substitutes as long as the Government raise these prices to artificial levels, and jute goods will find very difficult to compete at present prices with these substitutes because the Government of Bengal has taken away jute's natural advantage of cheapness. Moreover, if those countries which have developed these substitutes find that jute goods fall to a price at which they are again competitive, these countries will not hesitate to shield their own products by protective tariffs. The policy of the Government of Bengal is therefore one which is imperilling the very existence of the industry and all that depends on it. I know, Sir, that it will be argued that an increase in the area under jute will reduce the supply of rice but the effect would be so small as to be negligible. An increase of one anna in the jute acreage would mean a loss of about 60,000 tons of rice if all the additional land put under jute were rice-land but much of it would be land unsuitable for rice-growing. Moreover, as has been pointed out by various Commissions, there is no hope of making Bengal self-supporting in rice production by any possible increase in the acreage under rice at the expense of jute crops. It can only be done by improved agriculture to increase the yield of rice which is at present the lowest in the world, and it can only be improved by improved method of agriculture and improved seeds. The Department of Agriculture have failed in their primary duty of providing better quality of seeds so as to get a better yield of rice. "Grow More Food" Campaign has been the policy of the Government, but it has proved a failure, and the department seeks to conceal that failure by taking land from jute cultivation and this is the only way in which they can show an increase in rice production. That is a suicidal policy. Let the department concentrate on supplying improved seeds to the cultivator and stop trying to ruin the jute trade and industry.

Then, again, there is the question of revenue. The Raw Jute Tax and the Jute Export Duties are profitable sources of revenue but the policy of the Government of Bengal has so reduced the exports that it has endangered the revenue and it has been necessary to raise the rates of export tax.

Lastly, but by no means of least importance, is the question of employment. The artificial scarcity created by the Government is such that there is some doubt as to whether all the mills can keep working. Indeed, if it were not for the restrictions imposed on the export of raw jute, it is certain that some mills would have to close. The quota of sowings for the current season has been fixed at eight annas of the standard acreage. That is inadequate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. H. A. LUKE: One minute more, Sir. It is not enough to meet the export demand and keep all the mills in India supplied, and, if there

should be any adverse circumstance of nature such as drought or flood, it is certain that exports will have to be curtailed further or some mills in India will have to stop working. Either course would be disastrous. The policy of the Government of Bengal whether looked at from the near point of view or with regard to the more distant future, is leading to disaster which will involve not only those engaged in the jute trade and industry but the growers as well and, ultimately, the whole province. We, therefore, urge that the errors which have been committed be rectified before it is too late, and Government increase the quota for the current year by two annas making ten annas in all.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: In view of the criminal callousness, and stony, unresponsive and perverse attitude of the Ministry towards the various demands daily voiced from this side, one does not feel much enthusiastic to raise any issue here knowing the fate that usually awaits such issues. It is an extremely deplorable position. Still our duty to the people impels us even in this uneasy and uncouth atmosphere to give voice to the real and vital grievances our people are suffering from. Now I am going to raise a discussion about certain problems that relate to the day-to-day vital needs of the peasantry, the cultivators, the men behind the plough, about whom this Ministry pretends to have some sympathy and solicitude. Sir, it will not be an over-statement to say that to promote the prosperity of agriculture cattle plays a very important part. Every attempt must be made to save the cattle wealth from damage and deterioration. The importance of the need of the agriculturists for an adequate supply of good manure, and good plough cattle, cannot be overestimated. Cattle is the very foundation of agriculture. As Mahatma Gandhi said "cattle is the mother of prosperity". Cow gives us milk and manure when alive, and after death, hides and bones and other manures and products. What is the condition of cattle in this country? Sir, from the census it will appear that this cattle wealth is decreasing, particularly in Bengal. If we examine the comparative records of Census Report, since 1921, we will see that in the course of ten years ending 1931, there has been an increase of this cattle throughout the whole of India, except Bengal, and during the last quinquennium ending 1940, as far as I remember, it was found that cattle wealth was decreasing in Bengal and in two other provinces; whereas, in all other provinces there was an increase. That is an alarming prospect. If anybody wants to ameliorate the lot of the peasantry and cultivators, then none can ignore this vital problem which is of very keen interest to the polugh-men. In India efficient cultivation depends largely on the capacity of the plough cattle and cattle are the only source of power available to the cultivator. So, Sir, what is being done by this Ministry for improving the condition of the cattle wealth? Sir, there is no statistics to be relied upon as to the number of cattle. If we examine the All-India figures of cattle products and cattle wealth, we find it to be to the extent of one thousand crores of rupees. I do not know of any other industry which yields such a large wealth. When I look through the budgetary provision I find the same old stereotyped provision for some possible live-stock centres here and there, and other haphazardly taken small measures. I see no provision for soil improvement and no provision to improve the cattle wealth in our country.

Sir, next to cattle, I come to the question of manure. Next to the provision of adequate supply of water, use of manure is the most important means of increasing the yield of crops. The use of fertilisers, the use of manures, has got to be extended if the fertility and the consequent productivity of the land have got to be increased. These are commonplace yet essential things. No popular ministry worth the name can ignore these problems. But what are the provisions that have been made in this budget? We find nothing. When I examine the figures I find, there is only a provision of 62 lakhs of rupees for manuring and out of that about 2 lakhs go to the establishment, and other sums have been distributed in

dribblets under two or three items which are not much effective. So they are tinkering with this problem. This problem cannot be tinkered or trifled with. The whole picture must be looked at from the standpoint of a particularly comprehensive outlook of doing real good to the people.

Sir, another factor is that the supply of fertilisers must be so arranged as to make it possible for the poor cultivators to have these manures in all parts of the country and at as cheap rate as possible. And then, the manurial problem of India is the problem of deficiency of nitrogen in the soil. Phosphates are also needed and this problem must be approached scientifically. So steps should be taken to increase nitrogenous manures. There are several forms of manures which may be produced and these are—(a) farmyard manure, (b) compost made from night soil and refuse in urban areas, (c) compost made from village refuse and other materials, (d) oilcake, (e) green manure, (f) bonemeal, fish manure, etc., (g) chemical fertilisers and all these things. But I do not see any provision in the budget or any plan or programme placed before the House by the Minister which indicate that they are going to seriously tackle this problem which means a great deal in a country where the necessity of increasing the productivity of the soil is so great.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of cattle insurance. You know, Sir, people borrow money, purchase seeds and manures and cattle and they invest their all in the fields but before the harvest-time comes, very often natural calamities take place. The cattle die, cyclone comes and everything is spoilt. So then there is no prospect before the cultivators but a bleak future—cheerless and full of uncertainties. Over and above all these things there is the question of crushing indebtedness and in Bengal Agricultural Indebtedness extends to roughly about 97 crores of rupees.

(Here the member reached his time limit but was allowed to conclude his speech.)

Sir, Dr. Narayan Swami Naidu who went into the question of agricultural indebtedness in Madras stated that there are two causes of indebtedness—firstly due to cattle epidemics and crop failure and secondly natural calamities, namely, inundation, cyclone, flood, etc. To protect the poor cultivators against these unforeseen hazards the only thing that is necessary is crop insurance and cattle insurance. There is need of some sort of safeguards against these risks. Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, the ex-Finance Minister of the Government of Bengal, discussed and dealt with this question on various occasions. In the Central Assembly the other day, I was looking in the papers, that this question was raised in connection with the discussion of a resolution by Mr. Narayan Murti. This question of agricultural insurance was also raised in United Provinces. It has also been considered in several Western countries. So, Sir, to tackle this agricultural problem, to improve the lot of the peasantry, there must be some sort of insurance against these inevitable risks to the cattle and crops.

(At this stage Mr. Mudassar Hossain rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mudassar Hossain, I have already got a list of speakers before me and before that list is exhausted I cannot accommodate you and give you a chance to speak. If there is time left after this list is exhausted, you may have a chance to speak.

Mr. MAHAMMAD OWAIS: Sir, agriculture is a most important and vital thing to us without which we cannot live on. We cannot live on gold or silver or anything else except food, and this food is grown by the agriculturist for our sustenance. So it is a pity that these agriculturists are neglected. Sir, we have only a lip sympathy for these agriculturists. We say that they are the backbone of society. Really they are the backbone of society because everyone of us suck the blood of these poor agriculturists. Without these agriculturists we have no place in this world. They are

simple and ignorant people. They have no education, and it is well known that everyone cheats these fellows. The pleaders, the jotedars, the zamindars and all others—each and everyone—cheat these fellows (A VOICE FROM THE CONGRESS BENCHES: Even your Ministers cheat them.) Government says that it wants to grow more food, but how is it that Government wants to grow more food unless the Government comes and helps these people in growing more food. Government should educate them; Government should find out ways and means as to how to grow more food. The agriculturists have got no cattle. Even the few that they have got are not fit to plough the field. I have seen with my own eyes that the cattle after drawing the plough for a few hours become so exhausted that they fall to the ground, and the poor cultivators only throws some water into their mouths and noses when they are at the point of death. At this the cattle jump up one or two inches before their death. Such is the condition of cattle of the agriculturists. How can we expect to get a good yield of crop from this sort of cattle. Without good cattle we cannot grow more food.

Sir, the speaker who spoke just before me has complained that the seeds supplied by the Agriculture Department do not germinate. What is the reason for that? Government purchases seeds in the market and it is due to the dishonesty of departmental officers that such seeds are purchased. There is corruption in every department and the Agriculture Department is not free from it. So unless corruption in the departments of Government is removed, we cannot expect to do anything.

Then, Sir, Government made a drive previously to find out rice and paddy hoarded by jotedars and business men. I think Government should start a drive to find out the dishonest and corrupt officers, and whoever they may be, they should be brought to book.

I know, Sir, our Hon'ble Minister has a special fascination for cows (Laughter from the Congress Side) and I am sure he will pay special attention to improve the breed of milch cows and plough cattle on which the prosperity of Bengal depends to a very large extent.

Then, Sir, I cannot help referring to our contempt for the peasantry. We speak contemptibly of these people as *shet* but we forget that our very existence depends on them. We should learn to speak properly when we come in contact of the cultivators—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Sir, I rise to speak on the cut motion moved by me. Sir, agriculture will ever remain the main occupation of the people of this country however much the country is industrialised in future. After the great experiments of Sir Albert Howard and other Western Savants it has been proved that cattle is superior to engine for ploughing the land which causes soil decay, and compost manure of which cow dung and urine form the main part is superior to artificial fertilizers which cause soil decay as well as develop soil and plant disease. So, Sir, cattle will ever play a most prominent part in the economy of this country. It is truly called as the mother of prosperity, as the giver of milk, as the producer of cattle for plough and cart and producer of manure, and from the religious standpoint also it is therefore adored both by the Hindus and the Mahomedans—the Hindus consider it as the emblem of oneness of animal creation and the Mahomedans adore it as the sacred object of religious sacrifice.

For every two human beings there is one cattle in India as well as in Bengal. As my friend Mr. Manoranjan Dhar has said, the annual value of cow product and cow labour is Rs.1,000 crores, but in spite of this result one should not be happy because the cow in India is the most degraded, the most uncared-for animal. It is most underfed and undernourished and the condition of the Bengal cow is the worst in India and the condition of cows

in Western Bengal is worse than that in East and North Bengal because West Bengal has to depend upon imported cattle only from Orissa which has worst stock in the world. This is the position in a great part of Midnapore and southern part of 24-Parganas. Famine and War have also made havoc upon the cattle population and the cumulative result of all the factors today is that an average cattle does not give more than half the work it used to give in pre-war times and an average cow does not give more than half the milk it produced before. This is the pitiable condition in which the cow has fallen in India. But what has Government done for this? It has done nothing. Stud bulls are rarely found in the villages, specially in Southern Bengal. I have seen with my own eyes that a villager is roving in vain from village to village with his cow in search of a stud bull or is trying with a stunted bull. This has rendered very many cows sterile in rural areas, but what has the Government done in this vital matter. It has done little or nothing.

There is no planned programme before the Government to improve the cattle. For the improvement of the cattle what are essentially necessary are these, that every police-station should possess one cattle breeding farm in which best bulls of Haryana breed or other good breed should be kept and maintained at Government cost for utilisation by villagers for stud purposes. In no case stud bulls should be given to a villager for his keeping because then the stud bulls will be rendered useless like many country bulls. And experiments should be made in cross breeding with Haryana bulls and results made known to the villagers and experiments should be made, research work should be made for the discovery of cheap and efficient cattle fodder and the results made known to the cultivators by Bengali leaflets. Also free pasture should be provided for every village. Government should secure lands and convert them into pastures and maintain them and should initiate the villagers in collective farming on co-operative lines so that the villagers may be relieved of the burden of keeping cows individually. The position of the cows is this due to the negligence of the Government. The cow has got degenerated in breed or on account of the poverty of the people the cow has become underfed and undernourished. The underfed and undernourished cows give less work, give less product which make the people poor who in their turn become less able to maintain the cow. Thus goes the vicious circle. Government should intervene to remove the vicious circle and restore harmony. It should help in restoring improved cattle. Improved cattle will mean better breed and will make the people prosperous and they will be able to give better feeding to the cows. In short, Sir, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi we have to turn the cow into giver of plenty instead of being giver of scanty which is due to the criminal negligence of the Government.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that I shall be failing in my duty unless I raise my voice with regard to the agricultural policy of the Government. I shall remind the Hon'ble Minister that the British Imperialists of India invaded our villages, destroyed the village communities and set up a British landed system, created zamindars but British Imperialism saw to it that nobody is responsible for improving our land, for looking after our waterways and canals, for supplying manure and cattle to our Kisans, and so on. That is, in short, the misery of the people of Hindusthan, the misery of the people of Bengal. It is worthwhile remembering this because a popular ministry worth the name would at once start creating an order of things which at least existed before the Britishers came to India, if not a better earned system. But I am also aware of the shortcomings of this Ministry. By now we are certain that the Ministry is unable to adopt any radical measures because we find even a small benefit like the Bargadar Bill—which I mention again, and some of the Jotedar friends of

course are smiling at it—is a measure which the Ministry could have passed to benefit lakhs and lakhs of our Kisans. The Ministry did not do it, because it is afraid of the jotedars and it is afraid that things may go wrong with them. Because they at the moment after they have been elected think that they have no duty to the people,—to the Hindu and Mussalman Kisans of Bengal. But I should have thought that with regard to small measures the Ministry was in a position to adopt bold policy and it has the power to do so and even for the sake of its party policy, however narrow it may be, I thought that it would take certain strides for the uplift of the masses, but I find they have done practically nothing.

I shall not refer to the irrigation scheme of the Government. It has been referred to by members on both sides of the House. They have told us that there is no comprehensive irrigation policy, no productive irrigation scheme. We see that the kisans—the Ministry knows about it—that the kisans, at least 40 or 50 per cent. of them are bound down by a heavy debt. They are born in debt, they live in debt and they die in debt. But unfortunately the Ministry does not think about it, and they do not make arrangements for interest free loans to the kisans for supply of cattle, for supply of ploughs to the kisans, for supply of seeds to the kisans. I have found in Jalpaiguri and other places that there existed a system on paper where the jotedars are supposed to supply cattle and other things to the bargadars, but the jotedars never keep their contract, they never keep their word. They do not give it. I do not find the Ministry doing anything about it. I do not find the Ministry sending their policemen to arrest the jotedars. I do not see it. That is how the bargadars in all these places are virtually slaves of the jotedars. The Ministry does not think it worth while to free them from the slavery, to make them free men in a free land.

Secondly, I find peasants, 40 to 50 per cent. of them are not being given any protection against eviction from their lands. They are being ejected from their lands day after day. East Bengal, North Bengal, West Bengal wherever we look we find that they are being ejected from their lands. There is no protection for them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, you are speaking more on land system than on agriculture. Agricultural budget has got nothing to do with it.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Because it is intimately connected. When I speak on one item I cannot only toss the blame on one particular Hon'ble Minister but on the Ministry as a whole and therefore my point is to show that it is impossible for the Minister of Agriculture to do anything unless at the same time they sit in the Cabinet and see to it that all these measures which I am mentioning here are done by the Ministry as a whole. It is impossible for any Minister to do it singly.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: My friend is exhausting his energy. He should have stored it up for use in the proper place.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I can tell the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed that I have sufficient energy left to deal with the policy of the Hon'ble Minister and also the policies of all the Ministers.

As I have said other facts have been mentioned about cultivable waste lands. Nothing has been done by the Ministry with regard to it. Members on both sides of the House have also mentioned the point that we have a very low yield of paddy in Bengal, but I do not know what the Ministry suggests doing about it. I think that they have no plans to do anything. They have some agricultural colleges and schools and we are told that certain other agricultural schools and colleges are going to be built and for the lack of materials they are not being built, but I know of certain colleges which today exist in Bengal. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what those students who are taught in Dacca and other places do after they pass from the agricultural schools and colleges? Because of this

kind of agricultural schemes these students are wasting their time. Nothing can be done. Therefore it is merely a show to build schools and colleges without tackling the real problems of the agriculturists.

In the end let me mention that I live in the hope and faith that today the peasants, our kisans are rising. They have risen from their agelong slumber. Ministry or no Ministry, if the kisans are not going to be supported, if the kisans are not going to be benefited by this Ministry then surely—as you see today they prefer to die on their feet than live on their knees, and I have sufficient faith in kisan humanity—I believe that they shall rise sooner than the Ministry thinks and sweep away all these obstacles that are before them and see that these measures are gone through.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: As the time at my disposal is very short and the time is a little late I will restrict myself to some of the principal points which have been raised by the honourable members. First, I would like to deal with the points which have been raised by Mr. Luke about the desirability of increasing the jute acreage. Sir, jute acreage is being fixed every year after computing the jute demands from foreign countries as well as from this country. This year we have—the honourable members will excuse me, I am suffering from a hoarse voice. (Cries of “পাংলায় বসুন, বাংলায় বসুন” from the Opposition Benches.) I do not want to do that because I think I can anyhow express myself in English. Now, about the desirability of increasing jute acreage, as I have said, every year jute acreage is determined after computing the demand which is there for jute. This year we also computed the jute demand and we have given an acreage of eight annas. In fixing the acreage the principal thing we bear in mind is the demand of the crop and next to that we also think about food crops. If we put more acreage under jute, there is a consequential diminution of acreage under food crop. He has mentioned about the price of jute during the last two years. During war years price of jute was fixed by Ordinance, both maximum and minimum prices were fixed, which means Government thinks that the agriculturists of Bengal suffered a lot due to that control of price. Price of jute was fixed at Rs.17 maximum and at Rs.15 minimum. As a matter of fact the cost of cultivation of jute rose higher than that and had reached Rs.20 to Rs.25. On the one hand the capitalists were making huge profits out of manufactured goods; on the other hand the cultivators of Bengal were suffering a great deal. Government thought it its duty, as soon as war was over and as soon as the Defence of India Rules lapsed, to do away with controls and to give necessary relief to the cultivators of Bengal. Sir, every time the question of jute acreage is raised, the bogey of substitute is there. We think it is a bogey. If the question of substitute comes, Bengal cultivators also can substitute other crops in place of jute. Bengal soil is not less fertile than any soil of the world. So we cannot consider the matter from the point of view of substitute only. Mr. Luke has also alluded to the failure of Government to provide good departmental seeds. As I have already said in my introductory speech, Government has not been able up till now to establish sufficient seed manufacturing farms to supply seed requirements of the cultivators of Bengal. We are proceeding in that direction, and we propose to put in operation four seed multiplication farms. This year we have got 25 thousand maunds of paddy, 5 thousand maunds of aus and 20 thousand maunds of seeds. Even under the present conditions we hope to multiply and distribute good seeds next year to the requirements of the cultivators as far as possible. (Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Will they germinate at all?) Yes. Formerly seeds were purchased in open market. The department could not guarantee the genuineness of the seeds. They were less productive and some even proved failure. The honourable members will be glad to know that soon after assuming office I had discontinued this practice, and Government will not distribute seeds other than departmental seeds.

Sir, Mr. Ishwar Chandra Mal has spoken about the desirability of propaganda by the Department. We did propaganda by leaflets. Besides, we have "Krishi Katha", which has a good circulation, the present circulation being 80,000 copies. That is exclusively devoted to agricultural matters and information with regard to seeds, fertilizers, etc. This serves the purpose of propaganda to a great extent. He has also alluded to the fact that members cannot approach the Minister. I can say that whenever any member wishes to approach with any suggestion, specially any some constructive suggestion, they are most welcome and get all attention. Sir, he has also dealt with the fall of revenue. That subject is dealt with by the Revenue Department.

Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose has spoken about the result of "Grow More Food" Campaign. I must say that agriculture is subject to the hazards of nature. We have not been able to eliminate these hazards. We do claim however that in the absence of any special efforts to grow more food the position would have been much worse. According to official forecast the total outturn of rice during 1946-47 was 110 lakh tons which means more than the previous year's outturn. He has also referred to the excessive establishment cost of the Agriculture Department. The Agriculture Directorate in the past was grossly understaffed. There were one or two District Agricultural Officers in a district with half a dozen demonstrators, & the facilities provided by Government have to reach the cultivators in rural areas, there must be a sufficiently large staff to reach the manure, agricultural implements, etc., to outlying areas. If there had been no such staff, the increased facilities would be enjoyed by the people only in district and subdivisional headquarters. At present staff are being appointed ad hoc for each scheme, and this is inevitable so long as the general staff of the Agriculture Directorate is not increased. He has also made a statement about the appointment of non-Bengalis, and non-observance of Communal Ratio Rules. Of the eight appointments in the Bengal Agricultural Service, four have gone to Muslims and four to non-Muslims. Of the latter two are Bengalis. Whenever Bengalis are available preference is given to them. But would it be proper to hold up execution of schemes until Bengali officers are available? So we have to appoint non-Bengalis under certain circumstances.

MR. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Then what the Agricultural College is doing in Bengal? (No answer.)

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Many members have spoken about the distribution of fertilizer. It is unfortunate that the honourable member should criticise the policy of Government in respect of fertilizers. In fact in executing the "Grow More Food" Campaign the utmost emphasis has been laid on the distribution of fertilizers and manures, where necessary, at subsidized rates. During 1946-47 the target of distribution laid down by Government is 4,000 tons of bonemeal at 50 per cent. subsidy, 7,500 tons of ammonium sulphate at the same rate of subsidy, 521,500 maunds of oil cakes at cost price, 10,000 maunds of sun hemp seeds and 400 maunds of *dhaincha* seeds free of cost. In addition, under the scheme for the production of compost in villages 200 parties are working in the rural areas and in 25 municipal areas arrangements have been made for the composting of town refuse. By propaganda and demonstration such a great demand has been stimulated for all kinds of fertilizers that Government are finding themselves unable to meet all of them, but we are doing the best possible in circumstances in which there is a great shortage of oil cakes in the province.

Much has been said about the improvement of cattle. The improvement of cattle depends on many factors, one of which is the cultivation of fodder crops. Besides there is an excess of cattle in our province. Some honourable members have spoken about the district of Midnapore. I had been to Midnapore on a tour and seen for myself that one farmer keeps 100 to 200

cattle. But this cattle has assumed the size of goats. (Mr. BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: That is because of your goat multiplication scheme. Cattle is now being converted into goats.) He can keep two or three cattle but he keeps a hundred. This cattle accumulation under one owner must be removed. He has also spoken about the policy of Government in the matter of improvement of the breed of cattle. As a result of an experiment carried out by Government it has been found that the grading of the local stock with Haryana bulls is more suitable and consequently we have distributed Haryana bulls in the districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Jalpaiguri and Faridpur. I had been to all the districts and seen with my own eyes that there has been a great improvement in those selected areas. The honourable member has spoken that in southern Bengal it has been a failure, but I can say for his information that Government has not yet introduced Haryana bulls in the southern Bengal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Five minutes more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already taken fifteen minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Some honourable members have alluded to some corruption of the Agriculture Department. (A voice: Cent per cent. corruption.) Some honourable members have alluded to corruption in the Agriculture Department. As far as my experience goes, most of the corruption arises out of the purchase of seeds and distribution of seeds. The honourable members will be glad to know that the department have already started proceedings against some officers and there have been several suspension of officers and we are taking stringent measures to eradicate this evil.

The motion of Dr. Pratap Chandra Guha Roy that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Annada Prasad Mandal that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Suresh Chandra Das Gupta that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manoranjan Dhar that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Bhandari that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. H. A. Luke that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs.3,34,97,000 for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain that a sum of Rs.3,34,97,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "40—Agriculture" and "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research" was then put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.16,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary".

Sir, the objective of the Veterinary Directorate is primarily to secure a healthy cattle population for the cultivators by preventing and controlling outbreaks of epidemics and arranging for the treatment of cattle in hospitals and dispensaries. Animal husbandry is as necessary to proper agricultural planning as a crop husbandry, but unless animals are ensured against diseases it would be useless trying to improve their breeds or their qualities. Unfortunately financial handicap has stood in the way of the adoption of proper measures for epidemic control and treatment of diseases. The Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended that there should be one Veterinarian for every 25,000 animals. This will give an idea of the staff that we need in this province to cope with cattle diseases and generally to look after their welfare even if we allow for the useless cattle stock out of the 25 million cattle population of Bengal. As honourable members are aware, we have made considerable progress in the matter of epidemic control since 1939 when Government took over the entire financial responsibility for itinerant vets from the local bodies. Their number, however, is entirely inadequate to requirements, there being only 143 itinerant veterinary assistants in the province at present. An increase in the number of this staff must therefore receive precedence over other schemes of the Directorate. With a view to this we are expanding the Bengal Veterinary College so as to produce 80 passed graduates a year. Veterinary education has not proved as attractive as it should be and Government have therefore sanctioned grant of stipends to veterinary students on a very generous scale so that each deserving candidate is not only assured of a stipend but all candidates are assured of employment on the successful completion of their courses of study. Under the development plan of the province we hope to give effect to a scheme during the next year under which there will be a veterinary hospital at the headquarters of each subdivision with an itinerant vet attached to it and the number of itinerant veterinary assistants in the outlying thanas will be considerably increased. Provision is also being made for posting a field assistant to each thana headquarters and for attaching a small dispensary to each itinerant vet in the rural areas. We hope that this scheme will assist in dealing with outbreaks of epidemic diseases and treating ordinary ailments of cattle on a comprehensive scale and by the end of the first five years to which the scheme will run cattle epidemics will be brought entirely under control.

For treatment as well as control work we require a much larger supply of vaccine and sera. The Bengal Veterinary Vaccine Section has therefore been reorganised as a Research Institute and a sum of Rs.2,27,000 has been provided in the next year's budget for the purpose.

I am aware that the fruition of the scheme just mentioned will take some time but in the meantime we are not sitting idle. We have already trained a number of field assistants who are being deputed to areas where cattle diseases are particularly rampant. In some districts where cattle diseases have become almost endemic, e.g., Mymensingh and Tippera, we are sending special squads of Inspectors and field assistants. Special treatment centres are also being opened at various outlying places.

A special scheme of some importance of which I am sure the honourable members will be glad to hear is what is referred to as a mass inoculation

scheme. This scheme aims at creating an immune belt—five to ten miles wide—on both sides of the cattle routes connecting the province with other provinces. We shall be greatly assisted in this task by the Bengal Diseases of Animals Act, 1944, which has been enforced in the province.

Members will also be interested to hear that three veterinary hospitals are being opened in the Calcutta urban area. For this Rs.47,000 has been earmarked in the budget.

Poultry is an economic asset of the cultivator inferior in importance only to his cattle. For the first time steps have been taken to produce on a large scale vaccine for that fell disease of the poultry known as "Ranikhet" disease. A poultry vaccine institute has been sanctioned for the purpose and the necessary staff has also been sanctioned for inoculation of birds.

We require a highly trained staff for many of the superior posts in the department and for this purpose stipends are being given to students for training abroad, and also at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute at Muklteswar.

I will not trouble the honourable members with further details at this stage and would request their assent to the demand which I have already moved.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.16,60,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to prevent the slaughter of young and useful cattle.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.16,60,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs.100.

The reason for my moving this motion is to raise a discussion about (a) the administration and policy of the department, (b) the failure of the Government to take effective measures for the prevention of cattle epidemics, (c) its failure to provide for veterinary hospitals in rural areas, and (d) its failure to take effective measures for the improvement and the breed of cattle.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Bengal have been showing criminal negligence in respect of depletion of cattle. The position of cattle in the province is miserable. This fact, I believe, is well-known even to the self-complacent Ministers and their supporters in this House. The number of cattle in the rural areas is today much less than it was even in previous years. In many parts of Bengal, cattle have become scarce to such an extent that agricultural operations are well-nigh impossible to be carried on. There is a definite proof that large areas of cultivable land have not been brought under the plough for want of plough-cattle. Sir, in these days of scarcity of food, this is a serious matter which should have been taken notice of by any ministry except of course, the present one. As regards milch cows, the position is extremely dangerous. Milch cows are rare sight in the villages, and milk is a thing rarer still. Even mothers and babies who are sorely in need of milk seldom get any in the villages. The little milk that is available can be obtained only at an exorbitant price. The sufferings of mothers and babies, the tales of woe of the diseased and convalescing patients are loud condemnation of the present regime. Draught cattle are also equally scarce as other types. Particularly, during the last few years, there has been a progressive deterioration of the cattle wealth of the province. But the Government appear to be oblivious of this important aspect of Bengal's life, and they have, instead of making any attempt at improvement of cattle, allowed unrestricted slaughter of young and useful cattle.

This applies more strongly to the case of Midnapore than anywhere else. The terrible cyclone of 1942 was responsible for the loss of thousands of cattle in this district; the district has not yet fully recovered from the effects of that havoc. During the latter part of war, prices of cattle soared to great heights and people in their distress sold away their cattle. So this district has been suffering from acute scarcity of cattle with consequent loss to agriculture and health of the people of the district. To intensify our miseries, export of cattle from this district has been going on unchecked. Sir, if only useless and worn out cattle were sold away and exported, I would have nothing to complain on economic grounds, although that certainly hurts the religious feelings of a large section of the people. But not only useless or old and worn out cattle but young and useful cattle have been slaughtered or exported for the purposes of slaughter, and no attempt whatsoever has been made to stop this loss of economic wealth. Good, young and milch cattle are being continuously exported from the countryside to the towns to feed the beef-eating population. I have myself seen young cattle being exported by the railways and the waterways. I believe, laws have been there prohibiting slaughter and export of young and good cattle, but such laws had many loopholes and the butchers and exporters had always evaded the provisions of the laws with impunity. I would urge upon the Ministry to take immediate steps for the improvement of cattle here and, as a preliminary step, to issue strict orders for prevention of slaughter of young and useful cattle.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Dr. ABDUL AHAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Veterinary Department in Bengal is the most neglected and badly managed department and is very much inferior in development and in practical purpose to those in other major provinces of India. The top-heavy officers do very little practical work for the dumb, degenerated and indiscriminate-bred cattle of Bengal. The veterinary officers are more for their routine office works than for any of the practical works for which their subordinates are always lacking guidance and asking for help.

The poverty-stricken veterinary assistants of Bengal can hardly do any justice to the millions of sick and epidemic-stricken animals of Bengal while their shoes are pinching so badly all the time for want of adequate remuneration. Veterinary surgeons should be more in number—at least one in each thana, if not in unions and they should be provided with sufficient remuneration as is done in other departments. They receive very poor pay to maintain themselves in these hard days. A Vet, on an average, has got to do the Herculean work of looking after the well-being of 1½ lakhs to 2 lakhs heads of cattle and his jurisdiction extends to 800 to 1,000 square miles. In England, the Continent and other countries, one Vet is in charge of 1½ to 5 square miles and he has about 5,000 animals to look after. In the Punjab one Vet has about 300 to 500 square miles in his jurisdiction and has got to look after 40,000 to 50,000 heads of cattle. They are still better off than those in Bengal. Their students receive four years' college training, followed by one year's post-graduate and practical training. Madras is also well advanced in their veterinary training.

Sir, the Bengal cattle are getting degenerated day by day. They are no better than the up-country goats. Has the Government thought over the matter and found out some means of preventing it? Government should provide more breeding bulls and stop indiscriminate breeding and they should also provide more substantial food and fodder and grazing fields. Last but not the least important is the animal show. These animal shows should be perpetually carried on from one place to another as the season permits. In the Continent, owners of best animals show their good specimens in different shows and continue improving the said animals or their descendants till they become champions. Animal shows provide great

stimulation to the breeder as well as encourage the cultivators to be kind and generous in looking after their pets. It does not cost much to the Government treasury by way of presenting ten or twenty rupees to the poor but proud possessor of a good animal but it does cause some heart-burning to others who try their best to defeat their neighbour at the next show. I hope our Hon'ble Minister will be up-to-date by introducing animal shows and fairs in the remotest corners of villages of this province.

Sir, we should have a Veterinary Council as in other countries. There is a Medical Council under the Government patronage. Why should not this department have similar arrangements for the progress of the domestic animal kingdom? There should be more Veterinary Colleges or Schools and they should be affiliated to the University as in other countries. A Veterinary Council is urgently needed for the better handling, organisation and improvement of the department.

The present Veterinary College requires thorough overhauling and better management. The senior students of the College should be attached to the practising Vets during their holiday period so that they may acquire practical knowledge better under the guidance of the veterinary experts as is done in England. The present Veterinary College should have four years' training and there should be another Veterinary School at Dacca with two years' training in vernacular, if not in English, to meet the heavy demands of Vets in the mofussil. At present the veterinary help is very much inadequate in this country. Unless we have more Vets in this country, the existing veterinary help will be like a drop in the ocean.

Sir, Bengal should have a Veterinary Journal for the benefit of the people all over the country as we find in Ireland. Ireland was quickly separated from England and they have their own separate journals and other things for themselves.

Sir, this department is totally mismanaged as can be seen from the Finance Minister's statement that Rs 7 lakhs will be spent to salvage some 500 dry cows and buffaloes from Calcutta. Is this not a gross misuse of public money that one animal will cost Rs.1,400 per annum whereas many of their doctors do not get the same pay from the Government for their own living? There are thousands of valuable cows dying for want of food and proper treatment in the mofussil and none to devise better means for their uplift. It seems the only head gets the oil most.

There is another misuse of public money for giving effect to the Harm-ghata scheme which could have been easily spread out in five divisional centres for the real improvement of the different breeds in different soils and climates of the province instead of building such palatial houses for the top-heavy officers and the luxuriously brought up animals.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Sir, as I have said before, cattle plays a most important part in the economy of our country, but its condition is most miserable and the Veterinary Department is the most neglected department of the Government. How the Government is criminally neglecting it will appear from a comparison of the expenditure under different Government heads of department.

Sir, under the Veterinary Department a little over Rs.17 lakhs has been provided for the coming year while under Public Health and Medical Rs.559 lakhs has been provided. Taking two human beings for every head of cattle and judged by the monetary standard, cattle is receiving one-sixteenth of attention that human beings are receiving in respect of health and medicine at the hands of the Government. Then, Sir, out of Rs.16 crores provided for development programmes only 2,74,000 has been provided for development programme under the head "Veterinary". That means that it gets one-sixth of one per cent. of the total grant of development programmes. That the Government has not the proper outlook in this direction in the matter of neglected cattle will also appear from the fact

that under the development programme Government has estimated a grant of 47,000 for veterinary aid in Calcutta and suburbs while not a single farthing has been provided for that purpose in rural areas. Sir, the present dual system of administration in matters relating to cattle is a great hindrance for the improvement of the department. The department should be brought under one and single department and should be converted into a major department. Government has failed to take protective measures in the case of infectious diseases whether it breaks out in epidemic, endemic or sporadic forms. Rinderpest and hæmorrhagic septicæmia are the two scourges in Bengal. Rinderpest is responsible for half the deaths from infectious diseases, but what the Government has done in the matter? The staff at the disposal of Government is very scanty. The resources at its disposal are very scanty. In the Western countries they have stamped out this disease, this infectious disease from their lands. Government should at once take proper steps for eradication of this scourge from this Province. It can do so if it applies its mind to it. Compulsory mass inoculation should be provided for and in the case of epidemics, the diseased and suspected cattle should be segregated in camps to be maintained by the Government at its own cost in rural areas and in the case of compulsory mass inoculation as in the case of rinderpest where after mass inoculation many cows die as a result of fatal reaction, Government should compensate the owners for the loss of the cattle.

Then again, Sir, Government should make provision for better research work for discovery of sera and vaccine which would retain their potency for a long period outside cold storage, so that they may be despatched to the rural areas to be stored there for utilisation in the case of emergency. It is a great hindrance that infectious and epidemic diseases of cattle cannot be treated because sera and vaccine which are produced at present do not retain their potency for a long period and do not retain their potency outside cold storage. Also provision should be made for cold storage apparatus in rural areas, so that sera and vaccine should be stored there and kept and their potency maintained. Government should make provision for dispensaries and hospital arrangements in rural areas. They should also make known to the people scientific knowledge about the protection of cattle from diseases, specially from infectious diseases through Bengali leaflets written in plain language. Government should increase the staff in rural areas manifold. The present staff at the disposal of Government is quite inadequate for protection as well as for the purpose of treatment.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, as it is late I do not like to make a speech. I oppose all the cut motions and commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Rajani Kanta Pramanik that the demand of Rs.16,60,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Bhandari that the demand of Rs.16,60,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain that a sum of Rs.16,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-57 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 26th March, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present.

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair. 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 185 members.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Chief Minister, regarding
present disturbances in Calcutta.**

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sure that the honourable members of the House would like to know something regarding what has taken place outside. I regret, Sir, to have to report that there have been incidents of communal nature in several parts of Calcutta. It appears that the origin was due to a grave mistake, and due to false rumours. There was an incident which appeared in the papers this morning about women and children having been murdered in a brothel somewhere. Some persons of a particular community took into their heads to consider that this murder was of a person belonging to their own community. Whereas, as a matter of fact, the murder was in respect of a person belonging to the other community. On this rumour conflagration started. Fortunately when the disturbances were going on the police arrived on the scene, and although there were an incident or two, generally speaking the timely action of the Police Sergeant saved the situation and also saved a number of lives. Since then the situation has deteriorated, and incidents have occurred in various parts of the city. I had been round the city myself and I found that to a very large extent the normal signs of such communal clashes are apparent, namely, reliance on false rumours and panic from both sides, although there does not seem to be any attempt made by either one party or the other to attack. As a precautionary measure it is proposed to place a curfew from 6 o'clock onwards in the Burrabazar and Jorasanko thanas and the curfew will last till 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. I do not wish, Sir, to place before the House the other incidents which have come to our knowledge; I only wish to say that the police are alive to the situation, that the place is being picketed, and important places have been picketed, that patrols are moving round Calcutta and that armed police are out. Government, Sir, propose to take very serious steps and very drastic steps, and although there may be mistakes here and there, I hope, generally speaking, in order to bring the situation under control, if drastic steps are taken, all sections of the House will support Government. We cannot afford to have another communal conflagration in Calcutta and Government propose to take all possible steps to bring the situation under control.

Sir, may I request that questions may be held over for today, so that the business of the House may be transacted soon, and the members may be able to return to their homes while there is yet light?

Point of information.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: On a point of information, Sir, চারিদিকে গোলমাল আরম্ভ হলে টেলিকোমে কোন connection পাওয়া যায় না কেন, যানবাহন যাত্রী যোগাযোগ সে সম্বন্ধে কোন অনুসন্ধান করবেন কি?

আজকে যাদের আত্মীয়-স্বজন কলিকাতার চারিদিকে হয়েছেন তাঁরা তাঁদের সংযোগ দেবার জন্য টেলিকোমে connection পাচ্ছেন না কেন, এ সম্বন্ধে কোন অনুসন্ধান করা হবে কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think the answer is obvious. Just when occurrences take place many persons attempt to telephone and the lines are loaded. Some people get through, other persons who are unfortunate do not get through; but, it is clear that everybody cannot be served, because the number of lines is limited, and when there is extra pressure on the line the telephone communication gets overloaded.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, My leader is not here; I tried to contact my leader but I have not been able to do so. I am just now informed that my leader will be shortly coming. Of course many of us are aware of and have seen the incidents happening in the city of Calcutta. We shall be very glad if Government take drastic steps so that the conflagration may not flare up again. We want to say that if the Government of Bengal take steps, certainly we shall support Government, but the steps should be adequate and immediate steps should be taken. I am sure that if immediate and drastic steps are taken the conflagration will not flare up. Reports are serious. I do not like to mention all the reports and incidents here. I am told that a certain mess has been attacked by a particular community. It is a students' mess. I only bring this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister so that he may take drastic steps in that direction. My leader is shortly coming. After he has arrived, he is fully aware of the situation, he will have consultation with the Chief Minister and decide the course that ought to be taken in order to put an end to the menace already setting in in the city of Calcutta.

So far as questions are concerned, they may be held over. We want to know whether any arrangement will be made for our safe return to our own places before the sun sets down.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the House desires, the questions may be held over in order to enable the members to return before dusk. It entirely depends on the leaders of both sides to curtail the number of speakers and their speeches.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Arrangements should be made for our safe return to our own respective places.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 3,88,88,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38 - Medical".

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38 - Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about insufficiency of medical men and hospitals in the rural area, and maintenance of efficiency in the name of Communal Ratio in services resulting in posting of most inefficient, less qualified doctor in the important hospitals like Madaripur and other places of the Province.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38 - Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to establish a well-fitted hospital in every thana and of a well-fitted dispensary in every union of Bengal.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38 - Medical" be

reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government regarding the suspension of contribution towards the expansion of the S. B. De Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Kurseong and the failure of Government to provide adequate sum for tackling the problem of tuberculosis.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure to implement the recommendation of the Bhore Committee; failure to make grants to (i) the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital, and (ii) to the Astanga Ayurveda Hospital at Pattipooker.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about Government's failure to establish medical school in every district of Bengal.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the policy of running A. G. Hospitals in rural areas.

Mr. BEJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about maternity hospitals in each union.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHAYA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about corruptions and misarrangements in municipal hospitals and dispensaries.

(Dr. Pratap Chandra Guha Roy rose in his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will finish within 5 minutes.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: I will try my best. Mr. Speaker Sir, আমি Medical Department সম্বন্ধে cut motion দিয়ে এই কথাই member-এর জানাতে চাই যে আমাদের Medical Department এর Minister-in-charge যে rural areas উন্নতির জন্য ব্যক্তি সেখানে প্রতি ২৫ হাজার মানুষের জন্য একজন করে qualified ডাক্তার আছে যার। ব্যক্তি শ্রম সোবগোল করে যে সময় "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারী খোলা হচ্ছে সেই "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারীর রূপ যদি তালেন তবে বুঝতে পারবেন যে "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারী কি চিত্র, "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারীকে গড়প্লেসেন্ট (দেন ২৫০ টাকা, ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ড দেন ১৫০ টাকা এবং ইউনিয়ান বোর্ড ৩০০ টাকা। এই ৭০০ টাকা দিয়ে "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারী চলছে সেখানে যদি একজন ডাক্তারকে পেলে তাহলে ব্যক্তি হয় তা হলে অল্পত: মাসিক ৫০০ টাকা না দিলে চলে না। সুতরাং এই ৭০০ টাকা থেকে ৩০০ টাকা চলে যায়। বাকী ৩০০ টাকা থেকে কল্যাণ্ডারের মাইনে ও অন্যান্য খরচ দিতে হয়, তা হলে এখন "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারী যে কি পল্লখ তা বুঝতেই পারছেন। মাইন বোর্ড, ঔষধের মূল্যে পড়া পুস্তকের মূল্য এবং ডাক্তারের কক্ষ ব্যবহার ছাড়া গরীব রোগীর ভোগ্য আর কিছু পাওয়া যায় বলে আমার জানা নেই। এই হল "ইউনিয়ান" ডিস্পেনসারীর রূপ: কাজেই গড়প্লেসেন্ট ডাক্তারবান্ধা গরীবদের চিকিৎসার জন্য কি বিবর্তি ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে তা সহজেই অনুমেয়। যারা গড়প্লেসেন্টকে তরিক করেন তাহলে কেবল মূল্য বাড়িয়েই তরিক করে যান। তারপর ঔষধ বলে পল্লখ ডকুমেন্টার চেটী করলে (অথবা কানো বাজাবে) মিলেও মিলতে পারে, কিন্তু মূল্যে ঔষধ বলে কিছু নেই। S. D. O. অথবা Circle Officer এর সার্টিফিকেট ছাড়া কুইনাইন পাওয়া যায় না। তার সঙ্গে যত্নে যারা মাল্ভুর, যারা black-marketeer, কেবল ডাক্তার কুইনাইন পায়, কিন্তু যারা গরীব, এমন কি তাদের পত্নীকারের কুইনাইনের প্রয়োজন তাদের কাছে পর্যন্ত কুইনাইন পৌঁছায় বলে মনে হয় না। পাঁচ মিনিটে

আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করতে হবে, কাজেই বেশী কিছু বলবার সময় হবে না। আমাদের উক্ত Finance Minister হিম্মত উপর নাটকি কবাব অত্যাশু আগুয়ে left right ভয়েছেন সেবে তাকে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে তিনি কি জাতীয় নাটকি কবাব প্লান (plan) আঁকছেন তা জানতে পারলে ভাল হ'ত। তিনি পাঠান কিংবা বেগল দ্বারা পত্রাকারী তা' আমাদের জানা নেই, অথবা কানুন, কান্সার, ডুকী বা জাতন, কোন দেশের কৌশলময় সাক্ষিককে নিয়ে তিনি লিখি বাংলা দেশে শুভ পশপণ করেছেন জানি না, কিন্তু বেগল বা পাঠান আমলে কোন দিন কোথাও সাম্প্রদায়িক দ্বাৰাহারি (communal ratio) বাড়িয়ে তাদের administrative efficiency কোথাও কখনও কখনও হয়েছিল বলে ইতিহাস সাক্ষ্য দেয় না। আমি মালবীপুরের ডিসপেন্সারীর নাম করছি এইজন্য যে মালবীপুরের ডিসপেন্সারী একটি first class ডিসপেন্সারী। বড় জেনার ডেডস্টোয়ারে মালবীপুরের বড় well equipped ডিসপেন্সারী এবং হাসপাতাল আছে কিনা সম্ভব। মালবীপুর সহরে এখন ৪১০ জন M. B. miniature laboratory গিরে প্রাইভেট প্রাকটিস করছেন। মালবীপুর সব সময়ই সিনিয়র প্রভেডের M. B. অথবা L. M. S. ডাক্তার পাঠান হ'ত এবং প্রয়োজনমত consultation এর সুবিধা পাওয়া যেত। বর্তমানে মালবীপুর ডিসপেন্সারীতে কোন M. B. ডাক্তার নেই। কাজেই সিনিয়র ডাক্তার বা Surgeon consultation এর জন্য পাওয়া যায় না। সমস্ত সরকারী চাকরীতে সাম্প্রদায়িক দ্বাৰাহারি (communal ratio) বজায় রাখতে হবে বলে গভর্নমেন্ট পোলিটিক্সের বাক্য সর্বদা স্মরণীয় রাখতে পাই। এমন কি টেকনিক্যাল বিভাগেও সাক্ষ্য সাম্প্রদায়িক দ্বাৰাহারি (communal ratio) বজায় রাখতে হবে। তাই মালবীপুর ডিসপেন্সারীতে একজন জুনিয়র মুসলমান L. M. F. ডাক্তার নিয়োজন। একটি injection দিতে গেলে যার তিনটা সূচ ভাঙে, যার Compatibility বলে কোন রোগ নেই, কেবল মাত্র সাম্প্রদায়িক দ্বাৰাহারি (communal ratio) বাড়িয়ে তাকে একটি first class ডিসপেন্সারী এবং হাসপাতালের ডাব দিতে হবে। কাজেই কোনও লোক এই জাতীয় ডাক্তারের কাছে চিকিৎসা করাতে যায় কিনা মালবীপুরে একটা খোঁজ করলে জানতে অসুবিধা হবে না। আমার একজন মুসলমান বন্ধু স্থানীয় লীগের একজন বড় পাণ্ডা।

Mr. MAJIBAR RAHAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable member should withdraw the word "লীগের পাণ্ডা"। Such words should not be used here. He should withdraw them.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Sir, I meant league leader. Alright Sir, I withdraw the words "লীগের পাণ্ডা"। আমি তাকে ভিজেল করেছিলাম যে বাড়ীর কাছে ডিসপেন্সারীর ডাক্তার থাকতে। স. ব. ম. ডাক্তার ডাক কেন, সে বর, "আমি লীগের লোক হলেও আচর্য্যাকর হাতে তালি দিয়ে বাকি নেই"। আমি" Minister-in-charge-কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে তার বাড়ীতে সাক্ষ্য কখনও কাকর অস্ত্র হয় তখন তিনি সাম্প্রদায়িক দ্বাৰাহারি (communal ratio) বাড়িয়ে যে কোনও অসংলগ্ন স্বজাতীয় চিকিৎসকের হাতে সেই চিকিৎসার ডাব দিয়ে নিশ্চিত থাকতে বাকি আছেন কিনা? এখনভাবে সমস্ত সরকারী বিভাগেই efficiency deteriorate করছে। সাম্প্রদায়িক দ্বাৰাহারি (communal ratio) অনুসারে ডাক্তারী ছুলে চাই এটি করা হয়ও চলে—যার লবকার চলে যেনেইন প্রকারেইন পাল করিয়েও হয়ত দেওয়া চলে কিন্তু merit এটা চাড়ে না। পারলে শুধু তাগা মুসলমান বলেই মুসলমান সমাজের মধ্যেও চিকিৎসকের স্থান কখনও দখল করতে পারবে না। Medical কিংবা অন্য কোনও technical লাইসেন্স communal ration চিকিৎসার অনায়াস ও অশেষন। মালবীপুর হাসপাতালে মুসলমান L. M. F. ডাক্তার দেওয়া হচ্ছে বাকি আমি আপত্তি করছি না, আমার আপত্তি তার যোগ্যতায় তখন। মালবীপুরে বটনউকীনে বলে একজন ডাক্তার ছিলেন। তিনি এত বড় যোগ্যতামূল্য ডাক্তার ছিলেন যে সকল সম্প্রদায়ের লোক তাঁকে ডাকতে কখনও কোন আপত্তি করে নাই। আমি যোগ্যতায় দিক দিয়ে বলছি। যদি মালবীপুরে ডাক্তার দিতে হয় তা হ'লে কোন একজন senior grade-এর ডাক্তার দেওয়া হয়। Efficiency deteriorate করে যে ডাবের মুদন কাজের পত্তন করা হচ্ছে প্রত্যে এই জাতীয় কাজের ডাবের মুদন আতঙ্কিত হয়ে উঠেছে। উক্ত Finance Minister হ'ত। ডুকী বা ডাগ্রা বাক্য পরিকল্পনায় বিনিত্র বাক্যী জানাচ্ছেন, কিন্তু আমি বাঙালী বাঙালীর বৃদ্ধ চম্পুদেব করছি। বাঙালী হিসাবে ব্রিট থাকতে চাই। তিনি যে কাজের পত্তন করবেন সেখানে বাঙালী ব্রিট থাকতে পারবে কিনা সকলের আগে সেটা জানা প্রয়োজন।

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার ইচ্ছাটি পূর্ত্যাবের উদ্দেশ্যে বৃহৎ নষ্ট। আমি চাই প্রতি ইউনিয়নে একটি ভাল Dispensary এবং প্রতি থানার একটি ভাল হাসপাতাল

প্রতিষ্ঠিত হোক। এখন প্রায় প্রতি ইউনিয়নেই একটি করে Dispensary আছে বটে কিন্তু তাতে Dispensaryর সত্যিকার কোন ব্যবহারই নাই। এদেশে লোক বালেরিয়া, আমশয়, কালাজর প্রভৃতি রোগেই বেশী কষ্ট পায় ও মারা যায় কিন্তু এসব ব্যাধির চিকিৎসার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ঔষধ প্রায় ডিসপেন্সারীতেই থাকে না। Emetine injection আমশয়ের প্রধান ঔষধ কিন্তু তা দেশে পাবার উপায় নাই। লোকের নিকপায় হয়ে Dispensaryতে যায় আর তাদের বাজে ঔষধ দিয়ে ভোলান হয়, এতে লোকের কোন উপকারই সাধিত হয় না। বাড়তিবাক যদি জনগণের কল্যাণ সাধনের জন্য, তাদের ব্যাধিযুক্ত করার জন্য, এই সব Dispensaryগুলির সঠিক হয়ে থাকে তাহলে তারা নিত্য যে ব্যাধিগুলিতে কষ্ট পাচ্ছে সে সবের চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। মৃত্তিক-প্রদূষিত জনগণ যাতে ব্যাধির হাত হতে রেহাই পায় Dispensaryগুলিকে সেই ধরনের করে তৈরী করতে হবে এবং প্রয়োজনীয় বিবিধ ঔষধ রাখার ও ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। এরূপ ব্যবস্থা করতে পারলে জনগণের কাছ হতে কিছু কিছু পরস্যাও নেওয়া যেতে পারে। জনগণ যদি ভাল চিকিৎসা পায় তাহলে পরস্যা খরচ কবতেও তারা কুণ্ঠা বোধ করে না।

আমি নিজে কুমিল্লার অভয় আশ্রমে বহুদিন একটি ভাল Dispensary চালিয়েছি। আশ্রমের এই Dispensaryর সঙ্গে হাসপাতালও ছিল। এই Dispensary ও হাসপাতাল কুমিল্লা সহরের নিকটবর্তী কোনও একটি ছোট গ্রামে প্রতিষ্ঠিত ছিল। ঐ অঞ্চলের লোক কুমিল্লার সরকারী হাসপাতাল ও Dispensaryতে না গিয়ে আশ্রমের ডাক্তারখানায় আসত কারণ আমরা যথাসাধ্য ভালভাবে চিকিৎসা করতাম ও বাঁটি ঔষধ দিতাম। যদিও লোকের কাছ থেকে খরচা বাসল আমরা কিছু কিছু পরস্যা নিতাম তবুও লোক আমাদের হাসপাতালে ও ডাক্তারখানায় আসত। সরকারী হাসপাতালে গিয়ে বিনা পরসায় ঔষধ নিতে চাইত না।

আমার মনে হয় সরকারী Dispensary ও হাসপাতালগুলি যদি অভয় আশ্রমের অনুকৃত নীতি অনুসরণ করে চলে তাহলে জনগণের প্রকৃত মঙ্গল করা হয়। হাসপাতাল এবং Dispensary পরিচালনাও তত অবদ্বিধা হয় না। মনঃস্থলের Dispensary ও হাসপাতালগুলিতে বিনা পরসায় চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা আছে বটে কিন্তু তাতে না থাকে কোন ভাল ডাক্তার না থাকে কোন শিক্ষিতা নার্স আর ঔষধের ব্যবস্থাবি হে। কখনই নাই। এখানকার দেশের অশিক্ষিত, গরীব লোকদের প্রত্যাশিত করা হয় মাত্র তাদের কোন সত্যিকারের উপকার করা হয় না।

যদি কম খরচায় ভাল চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করতে হয় তাহলে প্রতি Dispensaryতে এমন একজন ভাল ডাক্তার রাখা দরকার যিনি অন্যান্য সাধারণ চিকিৎসার সঙ্গে মৌলমুটি operation করতে পারেন, মেয়েদের ব্যাধির চিকিৎসা করতে পারেন, চোখের চিকিৎসা করতে পারেন। অপনোনা মনে করতে পারেন একজন ডাক্তারের এতগুলি গুণ থাকা কি করে সম্ভব—তাহলে আমি অভয় আশ্রম হাসপাতালের কথাই আবার বলব। আমি নিজে একজন ডাক্তার। আমি ঐ হাসপাতালে সাধারণ অপারেশনতো করেছিই, Hernia, Hydrocele ও ঐ ধরনের অন্যান্য অপারেশনও করেছি, চক্ষু, কান ইত্যাদির অপারেশনও আনাকেই করতে হয়েছে তাই আমার বিশৃঙ্খল এই ধরনের ডাক্তার পাওয়া কঠিন নয়।

আমার সময় কম তাই সংক্ষেপে আর একটি কথা বলতে চাই। Public Health Department ও Medical Department এখন বৃত্ত কবে বাধা হয়েছে। Bhoire Committee Medical ও Public Health Departmentকে একত্র করবার সুপারিস করেছে। একত্র করবার প্রয়োজনীয়তাও এই বিপোর্টে স্পষ্ট করে বুঝিয়ে বলা হয়েছে। Public Health Departmentএর Inspector ও Health officerরা Medical Departmentএর সঙ্গে মিলে কাজ করলে সব দিক থেকেই সুবিধা হয়। অগতঃ পৃথক পৃথক এই দুইটি Department বর্তমানে কাজ কবে অনেক অর্থ ও সময়ের অপব্যয় করছে।

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়, আমার চোঁটাই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে বল বক্তব্য হচ্ছে দুটো বিষয়ে। তার একটি হল বাংলায় যে নিলাকণ যক্ষ্মা রোগ চলেছে তার প্রতিকারের সরকারের প্রয়োজনীয় অর্থের ব্যবস্থা না করা, আর দ্বিতীয়টি হ'ল কাসিরাজ যে S. B. Dey যক্ষ্মা স্বাস্থ্যনিবাস রয়েছে তাতে সরকারী সাহায্য বন্ধ করা। এই যক্ষ্মা রোগ সম্বন্ধে আজ পর্যন্ত যত তথ্য সংগৃহীত হয়েছে তাতে দেখা যায় যে সব পুঁজিতে প্রতি বৎসর গড়ে ২৫ লক্ষ লোক যক্ষ্মা রোগাক্রান্ত হয়, তন্মধ্যে এক বাংলা দেশেই ১০ লক্ষের উপর; এবং বাংলার প্রতি বৎসর যক্ষ্মা রোগে প্রায় এক লক্ষ লোক মারা যায়। মারা মারা যায় তারা প্রায় ১০ লক্ষ লোককে এই রোগে সংক্রামিত করে যায়। বাংলার বালেশ্বরায় পরই লোকস্বরকারী রোগের মধ্যে কয়লায় রোগের দ্বিতীয় স্থান। বাংলার বীরা পার্শ্বস্থান কামেরে করবার স্বপ্ন লেখছেন তাঁদের স্ববশেষে সামগ্রিক বায়ান্ত্র দিয়ে জানাতে চাই যে তাঁদের পার্শ্বস্থান স্থাপনের পূর্বেই বাংলা যক্ষ্মাছায়ে পরিণত হতে চলেছে। ডোমের জোরে অথবা হাল, সড়কি বেয় করে লড়কে লেজের গগণভেদী চাঁৎকার করে একে বোকা বাবে না। এতকাল হলে স্বাস্থ্যনিবাস

ও আবশ্যিক চিকিৎসার প্রয়োজন। ক্রয়যোগ্য নিবারণের জন্য বাংলার আজ পর্যন্ত কি ব্যয়? যেখানে বছরে দশ লক্ষ লোক রোগে আক্রান্ত হয় এবং এক লক্ষ লোক মারা যায়; সেখানে, বাম্বপুর হাসপাতালে ৩২৪টি bed-এর মধ্যে মাত্র ৮০টি সরকারী বেড। এই ৮০টি বেডেরও সম্পূর্ণ ব্যবস্থা সরকারী নিকা থেকে চলে না। কাঁচড়াপাড়ায় ২০০ বেড (bed) আছে কিন্তু সেখানে surgical cases করার বড় যোগ্য চিকিৎসক নাই। আর্মস্ট্রং হাসপাতালের বড় কোথাও কোথাও, ছোট ছোট দু-একটা যক্ষ্মা রোগে হাসপাতাল আছে, কিন্তু অর্ধাভাবে সেখানে ভালভাবে চিকিৎসা হতে পারে না। কাসিয়াঃ S. B. Dey Sanatorium-এ মাত্র ৪০টি বেড আছে। এই S. B. Dey Sanatorium-এর একটা ইতিহাস আছে। কাসিয়াঃ S. B. Dey হাসানিবিদ্য ঐ ডক্টরমোহনের নামের নিকায় ১৯৩৬ সালে স্থাপিত হয়। ৯৩ বারা আইনের শাসন যখন বাংলার চলিতেছিল, সেই সময় সাধারণের নিকট হইতে দুইলক্ষ টাকা দান পেলেন, সরকার তিন লক্ষ ৭০ হাজার টাকা দিয়ে। সেই পুতিশ্রুতি সেন, এবং সাধারণের নিকট হইতে দুই-লক্ষ টাকা ওঠায় পর সরকার তিনলক্ষ ৭০ হাজার টাকা সেন এবং তার বাচ্চুর রহস্য ঐ হাসপাতাল আরম্ভ করেন। হাসানিবিদ্যের জন্য জরি এবং আবশ্যিক বড় গৃহাদি নির্মাণ কার্য আংশিকভাবে সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে। সেখানে ৪০টি মাত্র বেড আছে। অধিক সংখ্যক যোগীর জন্য গৃহাদি নির্মাণের জন্য যে আরও বড় লক্ষ টাকার প্রয়োজন সে কথা বলা বাতুল্য। বর্তমানে এই হাসানিবিদ্যে যে ৪০টি বেড আছে, তার পৌনঃপুনিক পরচা চালাবার জন্য কোন সাংঘাত্য সরকার হাতে করা হয় নাই। হাসানিবিদ্যের কর্তৃপক্ষ দশম দশায় ১৯ লক্ষ টাকা পাওয়ায় ডিফিতে, সরকারের নিকট এই হাসানিবিদ্যের বিস্তারিত জন্য একটা পরিকল্পনা দিয়াছেন, কিন্তু ঐ পরিকল্পনাও কার্যে পরিণত করা সম্পূর্ণ সরকারের কোন আগ্রহই দেখা যায় না। পৌরীসেনের নিকায় বাপদায় কি যে না হচ্ছে তার দিগ্বিশি কথ্য মুজিল' হচ্ছে না কেন্দ্র সেই ব্যাঘাতক ব্যাপি তার কবাল প্রাঙ্গণে সম্পূর্ণ বাপদাকে প্রাঙ্গণ করতে বসেছে, সেই ব্যাপির প্রতিকার প্রচেষ্টায় আবশ্যিক অর্থের বাকস। আরি আকর বসি, পৌরীসেনের নিকায় ভুতের বাপের শ্রুজের ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে, আর নিকার বাকস সেই সরকার, সরকারে সত্যিকারের অর্থের প্রয়োজন জাটকে বীচাচার জন্য।

মাই ফোল, এই বকন একটা সংখ্যক গোপন চিকিৎসার জন্য এক বিবাহ পরিকল্পনা ও এত অর্থের প্রয়োজন এবং আমি জানি কবি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এর সমাক ব্যবস্থা করবেন। এই বলে আমি আমার উচিত প্রস্তাব উপস্থাপন করছি।

HUSAN ARA BEGUM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I crave your permission to say a few words on behalf of my poor sisters of Bengal, especially of Calcutta, who have a great claim on the resources of the Government as "Mothers of the Future Nation". It is to the mothers that the world is looking forward today for men to take their places in the coming reformation as soldiers, philosophers, scientists, etc., and the moulders of the destinies of man. Events are moving with a terrific pace, unparalleled since the creation of the world. A pauper of today will be a leader of tomorrow. A great change has come over the Universe, and nearly all the countries of the world are deeply engrossed with chalking out the future of their country, in which the advancement of the women and children have their special attention. But alas! India is still in the background. The vitality of the Nation is wasting away, due to infant mortality, and mothers with broken health, whose energy has been sapped away for want of proper nourishment and poverty.

Maternity—This is the most important problem in a woman's life, on which generally hangs the thread of her existence, which may snap away at the slightest breeze. A woman, a mother, whom every religion adores as a sacred being. There is no question of the rich or poor. The high or low of status or dignity the only word is "Mother". A word that everyone who has been blessed with mother's love remembers with veneration.

Sir, nature has bestowed an equal footing to all women, but I may be pardoned for giving a brief picture of the contrast between the rich and poor. When a woman of the wealthy class is to become a mother, preparations on a high scale is made for the reception of the newcomer. A cabin in some nursing home or hospital is engaged or some highly qualified doctors are engaged long before the advent. In fact she has every comfort that money can obtain. On the other hand, when a woman of the

poorer class is in the same condition, she has not even sufficient nourishment, nay, leaving nourishment aside, she does not even get sufficient food to eat, and to feed her other children, which Nature has generously bestowed on her in more numbers than her wealthy sister, and when the fateful hour arrives, she has not the means to face it. The only hospital for women (Lady Dufferin Hospital) has scarcely any bed as the population of Calcutta has increased to such an extent that the authorities cannot provide beds according to demand and necessity. Midwives cannot be had, as she has not the means. The last resort is *Dais* and they too are now very scarce. In the majority of cases of *bustee* dwellers the poor mother has to pawn her jewellery (if she has any) or her utensils. This is the first stage of the ushering in of a human being in the world of the poor.

Sir, what a vast contrast between two women in the same stage? One has every luxury at her command. The other, though a mother, is denied the necessities of life. The poor woman, often a dweller of the *bustees*, has no facilities for meeting this great emergency. There is scarcely any accommodation in the hospitals. One in a hundred can get a bed. Nor is she in a position to call a trained midwife, neither can she afford to pay the ordinary untrained Dai with peace of mind.

The Calcutta Corporation have opened free Midwives' centres for poor, but that is not sufficient to cope with the present demand, as the population of Calcutta has increased by leaps and bounds. The lot of my poor sisters of the *bustees* is indescribable. A small family, all living in the same room, which is more of a hovel than a room, with no ventilation. It is a sleeping, sitting-room generally a kitchen combined in one. I have been around the *bustees* and have been shocked to see the state of life. A whole family in one room! Here in these miserable surroundings a human-being is ushered into existence. In these environments there are many septic cases of the women and tetanus among the infants, which is mainly due to the dearth of sanitation. The majority of these sufferers succumb to these dreadful disease.

I therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to establish Maternity hospitals in the northern, southern and central parts of Calcutta, and thereby save the lives of the poor women and children from destruction and decay. I also propose that Government should also open centres for Midwives to give free advice and attendance to cases of expectant mothers whenever they are called upon to do so. These services should be reserved solely for the *bustee* dwellers and the poor women on the system of the Corporation of Calcutta, and thereby save the lives of these women from immature death and destruction.

The necessities of life are increasing day by day. Sir, I implore you to give a thought to the miserable lot of these human-beings who are also mothers, builders of the future nation. I will not mention the names of those countries where the State have given special facilities for women and children. The State took charge of the children, and it is they who have won the war, and thereby repaid their country with their lives and victory.

During the Islamic period of the Khalifs the State provided through the *Baitul-Mal* for the nursing mothers, and also for the infants when their mother stopped nursing them. Sir, there is no *Baitul-Mal* here, but there is a Government whose duty it is to make provision for the poor expectant mothers, and the babes in the early stages of infancy.

There is a great demand for a nurses' hostel with purdah arrangements where Muslim women of respectable families can have an opportunity of studying this most vital problem, the nursing of the sick, and take part in the future development of the country. I am thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for having set apart a sum for female nurses. May I request the

Hon'ble Minister to take into consideration the condition of my *purdahnashen* sisters who are unable to openly compete with others, and thereby give them an opportunity with facilities to take their part in the field of nursing? There are many women at present who would willingly grasp this opportunity. I would admit that the Muslim women did not take to nursing, as there was no proper arrangement or facilities for them. The nurses in India were first Christian Missionaries and gradually it was taken up by others. I will not mention anything further, but shall confine myself to the need of Muslim nurses. In my opinion there should be training centres with hostels, on the lines of the Hyderabad Hospital for women, or the Tibbaya College of Delhi, where girls and women of respectable families have training amidst Indian environments. I therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to give this matter his serious attention and thereby make provisions for these two most important problems.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় শ্রদ্ধা মহোদয়, ভোম কহিছি যে হুপারিস কবেছেন তার মধ্যে কিছু কিছু কাজ করা হয়েছে আর কিছু কিছু হয় নাই। তার মধ্যে এত বড় দীর্ঘ আলিঙ্গা আছে। এত অল্প সময়ে সে সব করা বলা যেতে পারে না। কাজেই সে সম্বন্ধে আমি কিছু আলোচনা করবো না। গভর্নমেন্টের যে দুইটা function আছে তার মধ্যে একটি হল Law এবং Order বক্ষা করা। বর্তমান সভা যোগে গভর্নমেন্টের আরও একটি function আছে সেটা হল social service. তার মধ্যে একটি হচ্ছে চিকিৎসা। Law এবং Order এর গিনি কটা, সে প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এখনই আমাদের বলে গেলেন যে দাঙ্গা থামাতে তাঁরা যে ব্যবস্থা করবেন তাতে চান co-operation দাঙ্গা থামাতে co-operation এর প্রয়োজন। আমাদের চোখে অশান্ত নেই। তদ্রূপে তিনি আমাদের co-operation চাচ্ছেন। কিন্তু বাংলাদেশ যক্ষ্মার ক্ষয় হয়ে যাচ্ছে। সে যক্ষ্মা থেকে মানুষকে বাঁচাবার জন্য গভর্নমেন্টের সঙ্গে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য বলসকারী মহোদয় যে কয়েকটি হাসপাতাল তৈরী করেছেন গভর্নমেন্টের উচিত সেগুলিকে যথোপযুক্ত ভাবে সাহায্য করা। তা যদি না করেন তা হলে co-operation চাই, co-operation করা, এসব কথা বলবার কোন অর্থ হয় না। যামপুরে একটি যক্ষ্মা হাসপাতাল আছে। সেখানে বহুদিন থেকে অনেক বোম্বা চিকিৎসিত হচ্ছে। সেখানে গভর্নমেন্ট সাহায্য করতে কার্পণ্য করছেন। নিজেদের শুর দিয়ে, নিজেদের অর্থ দিয়ে একদল নোক সেন্সের সোকেস করা করছেন। আর গভর্নমেন্টকে তা আমরা tax দিচ্ছি। বিনা পরিশ্রম ভাবেই কাজে কাজ চাই না। আমরা যে মূল্য দেই তার বদলে কিছু চাই। তা সম্বন্ধে গভর্নমেন্ট যদি কিছু সাহায্য না করেন, তাঁরা যদি এইরকম কার্পণ্য করেন, তা হলে আমরা তাঁরা তাঁদের কর্তব্যের ক্রটি করছেন, অবহেলা করছেন। পান্ডিত্যের আর একটা কবিতা যক্ষ্মা হাসপাতাল আছে। সেখানে মাত্র ৫০ রান্না বেড় আছে। ডাক্তার ও নার্সের সংখ্যাও কম। গভর্নমেন্ট তাদের কিছু পরিশ্রম শান করে তাদের এই মতন কার্যে সাহায্য করছেন না। তাই বদলি আমরা নিকা মালের চোখে দেই বায় বলবার জন্য দৌট। কিভাবে বায় হয় তা আমাদের বলবার এবং দেববার অধিকার আছে। আমরা গভর্নমেন্টকে যথাসাধ্য করতে প্রস্তুত আছি যদি আমরা বুঝি যে সে নিকার সন্তানদের হ'বে এবং সেটা দেশের ও দেশের দুঃখ-দুর্দশা মোচনের জন্য বায় হচ্ছে। এই বকমঃ করে সাহায্য করতে কেউ কুণ্ঠিত হয় না। আমি আশা করি গভর্নমেন্ট যামপুর ও পান্ডিত্যের হাসপাতালে কিছু দিবেন - কিছু নিশ্চয়ই দেওয়া উচিত।

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH : Sir, when we reflect how few are able to pass through this life, and out of it, without the skilled help of doctors and nurses we have no need to argue about the need of that skill. We want much of it as possible. We want all we can get of the highest kind, though for temporary reasons we have to accept stages of training both for the professions of doctors and nurses. That I believe is only a temporary convenience against which opinion is already rising. Last year, Sir, when the Minister told us what he proposed to do with the buildings, equipment and all the opportunities left behind by the Armies of Occupation on their departure our hearts warmed to him for his alertness and his generosity of feeling. I find my own cooling a little, when on driving past when we look at the Lake Hospital I see in that huge hospital hardly any sign.—I may say no sign,—of activity towards realisation of what he intended to do and not even that peaceful dignified calm that we expect

associated with a hospital. I have no opportunity nowadays of seeing the mufassal, but friends tell me that hospitals in the mufassal are either being abandoned or disregarded, and very little is done for their equipment or improvement. Then again there is very little evidence of the intentions for the training of nurses being turned into activity. Skill of this kind is not to be improvised; it must be procured and obtained by careful preparation, and I should like to see the Finance Minister's efforts shared by everybody working under him. We know our needs as a province. We have often discussed them here and elsewhere. The Bhore Report has come to give us a line along which we should march with unflagging determination. Agriculture and Medicine in the widest sense are inseparably connected as the basis of our physical welfare. Yesterday we discussed what is wrong with agriculture, everything; today we discuss what is wrong with medicine, and this book of cut motions shows a very wide appreciation of what is wrong. But what is wrong is insufficiency, deficiency. We want more of everything before we can regard ourselves as a people properly equipped against the inevitable accidents of our physical life. We have not enough food—that was emphasised yesterday. We have not enough care, not enough attention to the other conditions for health. And yet we should be ungrateful if we fail to note what purpose the Red Book shows for the improvement of our province. If the Minister is able to spend the money there set out, there will be considerable improvement.

I should like to say a few words more about nurses. We have the Bhore Report and we have an article that I referred to last year in the journal of the United Services Institution of India for April 1946, by a Matron, Miss Hinchey. It is called "Wanted, an Indian Nursing Crusade". There the salient facts of the situation are set out impressively. We want nurses. But we must show that we want them, we must show that we want them by offering them reasonable terms, comfortable conditions of living, we must treat them in every way as educated professional women ought to be treated, women doing some of the best work in the world. We should reward them according to that status, and by reward I do not mean only pay, I mean all the conditions of their life. We should treat them with every courtesy and consideration and not, as has often been complained, as menials doing humble and almost despicable work.

India has today 7,000 nurses. The Bhore Report contemplates 50,000 at the end of 30 years. India's needs according to the generally accepted formula is 778,000 nurses. We shall not see those in our life time as an assembly. What is wanted, says Miss Hinchey, is a nation-wide crusade. In the cities we have a few nurses, in the countryside very few, but in the cities—Calcutta, Bombay, we find that most of the few nurses, specially European and Anglo-Indian, look to private nursing rather than institutional employment, a very large part of the reason being that there is very little institutional employment to attract them. A nurse in private employ is in a way doing much less than she might. She is giving up to one well-to-do sufferer the care and devotion, and skill that in a hospital or other institution she would be giving to many poor. We should keep that in mind as a formula on which we might improve our conditions.

When I say more hospitals, more nurses, more skilled nurses, better treatment for our nurses, I need not repeat what I have already said. I sometimes hear it said that in the conditions of life in India there is sufficient nursing capacity; the devotion, and care in domestic life are so great that we need take less thought of skilled, trained nursing than other countries have to. Now, we all know the devotion and care that India has, arising out of natural domestic affection, but that is not enough in these days. In the last half a century or so doctors have introduced a large number of very unpleasant and dangerous diseases of which until recently

we did not know even the names; to cope with these simple, natural devotion is not enough. We must have trained skill, and no country can be regarded as equipped for modern civilised life until it has a sufficiency of that skill.

I now ask a few questions which others can debate. How long has India to wait for district nursing services, how long for a district medical service, how long for district hospital and dispensing services, how long will Calcutta or Bengal have to wait for an adequate hospital for children, how long will Calcutta have to wait for an Orthopaedic hospital or Orthopaedic department for children, how long for an Ophthalmic hospital, how often have we to hear of the agony of little children losing their sight because it is impossible at the moment to find care for them, finally I think a big city like this cannot regard itself as properly served and equipped until it has a hospital or a Home for incurably afflicted children.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion of the last few days on the Budget Estimate for the year 1947-48 has revealed a mentality of this communal class Ministry which impels us to think that all our suggestions, however, constructive shall be nothing but crying in the wilderness. The other day one of the Parliamentary Secretaries in reply to a question was heard to say that public opinion of this province was reflected in the popular Ministry. A popular Ministry indeed! the Ministry which is fiddling when the people of Bengal, both Hindus and Muslims, are dying of hunger and pestilence.

Sir, there is no statistics to show the number of people of this unfortunate province who die without any treatment or due to bad medical treatment. But it may be presumed that about 75 per cent. of the deaths are due to want of any treatment or due to bad medical treatment. I come from a rural constituency where the number of qualified medical practitioners can be counted on fingers. If you walk through the villages you will find that emaciated figures are moving about. Walk mile after mile and you will find not a single qualified practitioner who can raise any hope before these unfortunate victims of various ailments.

Now, Sir, if we come to the fact we find that there are only nine Medical Schools in this province. Out of these nine Medical Schools, three are in Calcutta and only six are in the mofussil towns, namely, at Dacca, Mymensingh, Burdwan, Chittagong, Jalpaiguri and Bankura in which the average number of students will not exceed three thousand. In spite of the fact that most of these schools are run by the Government, the finances of these schools are most unsatisfactory. No doubt there are laboratories attached to every school, but I can tell the House that insufficient and unsatisfactory condition of finances has resulted in great deficiencies in equipment. It has particularly been pointed out by the Health Survey and Development Committee that the majority of these schools cannot be considered satisfactory either from the standpoint of the clinical facilities available in the attached hospitals or from that of the number of teachers provided.

The Committee further said that the absence of a central body to control medical school education has naturally led to a wide divergence of the standard in the training given in the different schools, and of late, owing to the growing demand for doctors increasing number of students has been admitted every year to the already congested, ill-equipped and under-staffed schools. Without going into the defects of individual institutions it may be stated that the majority of them provide education far below reasonable standard.

Sir, from the report of the Committee it transpires that the existing medical schools require further improvement. In 1942 the Indian Medical Council passed a resolution that all medical schools should be abolished by 1947 and the medical schools should be converted into colleges. I do

not know if that recommendation of the Council was at all accepted by this Government, but I find that one out of the nine medical schools namely, the Dacca Medical School is going to have the status of medical college. Though the Campbell Medical School was mentioned, this Government have taken a step-motherly attitude to elevate it to the standard of a medical college. But this step is not a solution of the fundamental problem—namely the dearth of qualified doctors in the rural areas.

Sir, there is a growing demand for qualified doctors and the existing schools are not capable enough to meet the demand. There are innumerable students who are earnest to qualify themselves as doctors. The most important and vital factor is that thousands of people—Hindus and Muslims—are dying of various diseases for want of proper treatment.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply to the various criticisms that have been levelled against the medical administration of this Government. Sir, I shall have to be brief because it is the intention of the House to rise early today and, therefore, I shall deal with the points as briefly as possible. Mr. Guha Roy has said that there is an insufficiency of doctors, hospitals and dispensaries in rural areas. Unfortunately it is a fact that in our country we have lesser number of doctors available for the people as compared to the doctors that are available in other countries. Sir, I have got before me some figures which will, I think, go to show that the number of doctors as mentioned in the Bhore Committee's recommendation is inadequate to meet the requirements of this country, but every effort is being made by this Government to come up to the standard that is required. The honourable members of this House will remember that we have started an extra medical college in this Province. We had only two colleges in Bengal, one was a State institution and the other was a private one. In addition to the two we have now a college functioning in Dacca. Members will also remember that it is proposed to start a medical college for conversion or upgrading of licentiates into graduates in the Lake Hospital. That scheme is almost ready now and it is expected that the college will start some time next month. But I am sure that the members of the House are aware of the fact that we have now in rural areas more than 20,000 beds available for the rural population. Because of these beds established in the hospitals in rural areas the need for medical relief to the agriculturists has been met to a large extent. I want to give the House a comparative statement of the percentage of beds available for the population in British India, the ratio is .24 per thousand of the population and in Bengal we have .5 beds per thousand of population. That is to say in British India they have one bed for 4 thousand of the population, in Bengal we have one bed for 2 thousand of the population. This will go to show in Bengal we have double the number of beds available on a per capita basis for our people and, therefore, Bengal is far ahead of other Provinces in this country. Of course, I do not mean to say that this number is adequate. I do not want members of this House to run away with the idea that Government feel complacent and want to rest on their oars for having provided so many beds for the people of this Province. By no means. Government are alive to the fact that there is still a greater necessity for the establishment of more hospitals, because in U.S.A. they have 10.48 beds per thousand of population. In England they have got 7.14. I do not know what is the optimum rate but the fact remains that .5 is by no means satisfactory. Therefore it will be the Government's endeavour and duty to help the people of this Province by the establishment of as many hospitals as it is possible for Government to undertake.

Dr. Guha Roy has referred to a hospital in Madaripur. There is at the present moment an Assistant Surgeon at Madaripur, who is an experienced

officer. I do not know why the honourable member complained about his efficiency. I know we get all kinds of complaints—some are of course legitimate and some complaints are very frivolous, and I have made it a point to enquire into all the complaints that I have received, and I have kept my Medical Directorate greatly worried and they have been working under very high pressure to investigate into all kinds of complaints most of which ultimately turn up to be frivolous. But I also admit that we have received large number of complaints which have been found to be genuine, and we have done our best to remove these grievances. We also receive complaints of this type that because a Muslim Officer has been posted at a certain particular station, it inconveniences a section of the population, because being a Muslim doctor if he goes to a particular house, he feels that it causes a great deal of inconvenience. (Dr. PROFAR CHANDRA GUHA ROY: That was not my point.) I do not want to go into the details of the nature of inconvenience felt, but the fact is that a lot of persons feel inconvenience and therefore they put in complaints. But it is impossible to put doctors who will meet the needs of all persons concerned. It is the Government's intention certainly to put officers who are experienced and who are capable of meeting the requirements of the people, but complaints there will always be, because it is not possible for an officer to satisfy everybody. Of course, if the complaints are legitimate, I assure the honourable members that Government will enquire and will penalise the officer if he is found guilty of dereliction of duty or of negligence.

Dr. Banerjee has stated that there should be an officer in each union. Of course that is very desirable and Government have tried their very best to encourage the establishment of dispensaries. Members of this House will realise that the primary responsibility for giving medical relief in rural areas vests in local bodies, namely, the district boards, but because the district boards have not been able to meet these requirements for dispensaries, Government have always come forward with proposals for giving financial assistance. The policy of Government is to give a grant of Rs. 250 to the village dispensary and Rs. 500 to the thana dispensary and during the current year Government have given Rs. 2½ lakhs as contribution or as grant to these dispensaries in rural areas.

MR. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Is that adequate?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I do not say that it is adequate, but I may inform the House that Government will follow the policy of giving financial assistance to dispensaries established in rural areas, provided the minimum requirements prescribed by Government are fulfilled.

I now come to the question of tuberculosis raised by Mr. K. K. Ray.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Five minutes more please.

MR. SPEAKER: Two minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government are alive to the fact that the menace of tuberculosis is very great. It is really very unfortunate, and I admit it is a sad commentary on past administration that it has not a single state institution for the treatment of tuberculosis; but from last year a hospital has been started at Kanchrapara. But even before the establishment of this hospital Government has been giving generously financial assistance to private hospitals for tuberculosis. The Jadabpur T. B. Hospital and S. B. Dey Sanatorium in Kurseong have received large amounts of grants. The S. B. Dey Sanatorium received over 3 lakhs of rupees; they also received lease of a large tract of forest land for the extension of the hospital. So far as the Jadabpur T. B. Hospital is concerned, Government has been giving financial contribution from

time to time. As a matter of fact, Government is maintaining 80 free beds in that very hospital. Therefore it is wrong for Mr. K. K. Ray to say that Government has done nothing for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Lastly Mrs. Hakam (Husan Ara Begum) has said that there is necessity for tackling the problem of infantile mortality and for making adequate provision for the establishment of child welfare and maternity clinics for slum dwellers in this city. I agree with Mrs. Hakam that the condition in slum areas is very deplorable, but it is not a problem that confronts the Medical Department alone, it is a problem of so great importance and range that it has to be tackled by all the departments of Government. Mrs. Hakam is no doubt aware that Government contemplate building houses for slum dwellers, so that the insanitary conditions under which they live are removed. I can assure Mrs. Hakam that the policy of Government is to provide facilities for nursing and expectant mothers living in slum areas. I agree with her that it is the State obligation first to see that the poor are provided for before any amenity is given to the rich. I have always said that it is the policy of the Government to tax the rich for the benefit of the poor, and to see to the requirements of the poor people before any kind of amenity is provided for the rich. In this view of the thing, Government will do its utmost to provide medical facilities for nursing and expectant mothers. On my part, I am afraid, I have not been able to meet the other points raised in the House by the honourable members, due to time-limit. I shall sit down with this remark that the members will turn down all the cut motions and accept my motion for demand for grant under this head "Medical".

The motion of Dr. Pratap Chandra Guha Roy that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sures Chandra Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Amulya Chandra Adhikari that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Munindra Nath Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bejoy Krishna Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Pramatha Nath Bandopadhyaya that the demand of Rs. 3,88,88,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 3,88,88,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,63,76,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health".

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about Government's failure to introduce anti-malarial scheme as recommended by Health Survey and Development Committee or popularly known as Bhole Committee.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about general policy, failure to arrange for both curative and preventive treatments for epidemic diseases, to combat malaria, infant and maternal mortality, kala-azar, cholera, small-pox, tuberculosis, etc., and to evolve effective and comprehensive schemes for completely eradicating epidemic and other diseases and failure to tackle the problem of water-supply to rural areas.

Mr. KANAILAL DASS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to take necessary steps—

- (a) for the prevention of preventable diseases,
- (b) supply of filtered water and drainage system,
- (c) maternity and child welfare, and
- (d) to educate the general public with the public health literature, etc.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to establish leper colonies at Bankura and Peardoba in the district of Bankura.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to take up a comprehensive scheme to tackle the problem of leprosy in the district of Bankura.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to provide adequate and decentralised arrangements for treatment of tuberculosis.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my motion itself is very elaborate and needs no elucidation, nor have I the time at my disposal to elucidate it. Sir, the policy of the Government is very patent for all departments. I have evolved a universal formula which applies to all departments equally. The policy is to allot handsome amounts of money to capture the imagination of the people, but not to spend them when the time comes. There is no scheme, no comprehensive scheme. If there is any scheme, it is immature, it is fantastic or impracticable. Therefore the public money is wasted, and the schemes are either executed in a haphazard way or abandoned altogether. Another thing, which is very marked, is that Government are proverbially slow to execute schemes and proposals. The department is top-heavy, and appointments are made by way of distribution of patronage to those who are faithful and obedient. Allotments are made more for salary, allowance, superannuation, honoraria and contingencies than for actual health purposes and actual service to the people. For example, if we examine the budget statement

and figures, we find that there was a large sum provided for rural water-supply but it could not be spent. Another large amount was allotted for anti-malarial scheme but this also remained unspent. In this way, instances can be multiplied.

To exemplify the slowness of the Government, I will draw your attention to items of allotments such as levelling, dressing, etc., in the site of the proposed office and staff quarters, Kalimpong, construction of office and store buildings for Superintendent of Kalimpong and construction of quarters of the Superintendent and his maintenance staff. We find that the last 12 months have elapsed for spending Rs. 8,500 only for levelling the site. We do not know how long they will take to construct the quarters of the Superintendent and the staff.

Sir, I will read out relevant passages from the Eastern Bengal District Gazetteer for Dinajpur compiled by Mr. F. W. Strong, I.C.S., on the 20th March, 1911. You will find that for the last 36 years or more, schemes were before the Government and were under their consideration, but they never materialised. The passages read as follows:—

“As regards Dinajpur town, several schemes for improving its sanitation, by levelling the beds of the Ghagra and Kachai *nalas*, and thereby abolishing the ponds and cesspools, which now form in the beds of these canals, have been mooted from time to time, but have always been abandoned as costly and uncertain in their results”. So long back as 1878, “a committee consisting of the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, the Executive Engineer and the Civil Surgeons of Dinajpur and Rangpur, was constituted to enquire into the reason for the unhealthiness of the town and submit a scheme for sanitary improvement. This committee came to the conclusion that the cause of unhealthiness was defective drainage.” “An elaborate scheme for making a portion of these channels *pukka* has recently”—“recently” means in 1912—“been prepared by the Sanitary Engineer, Eastern Bengal and Assam.” I do not know for what reason for about 36 years the schemes are under the consideration of the Government, but nothing has been done.

As regards top-heaviness, you will find that out of Rs.1.64 lakhs, only 70 lakhs has been allotted for health and epidemic purposes, but Rs. 93,92,000 for salaries, etc.

I will then, Sir, draw your attention to the fact that this year the allotment in this department is less than that of the previous year. Is it because the public health problems have all been solved? I do not think that is the answer.

I will now refer to the resolution on the reports of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the years 1943 and 1944 and I will read only a few lines from that report. “There was thus a decrease of 296,743 births in 1943 and 491,089 in 1944 as compared with the figures of 1942.” “Nineteen lakhs eight thousand six hundred and twenty-two deaths with a death rate of 31.5 per mille and 1,726,850 with a rate of 29.1 were recorded in 1943 and 1944 respectively”.

Now, Sir, we should pause and think which way the province is going. The province is going to annihilation. Death rates in all diseases have increased. There is a large number of suggestions made in the report of the Bhore Committee. It is only the keenness and sincerity of the Government that is wanted.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Moulana HAZI MAHAMMAD QUASEM : হানবীর শীকার মহোদয়, বঙ্গা জামাতের সমুখে বাঁধা ও চিকিৎসা বিদ্যা বিষয়ক একটি বাজেট উপস্থিত করা হইয়াছে। এই সমস্যাতে জামাৎ কিছু বড়ো আছে। সরকার

[illegible]

I do not want to take the time of the House as we have already exceeded the time-limit by three minutes, but I want to assure the House that this year we shall continue to carry on a tearing campaign throughout the length and breadth of this province in an attempt to educate the people in hygiene and in sanitary conditions, so that the health of the province may improve. The Public Health Department is doing its utmost in combating outbreaks of malaria, and we have already provided for a lakh of rupees for this Public Health campaign.

With these words, I oppose all the cut-motions and commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Amulya Chandra Adhikari that the demand of Rs.1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs.1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kanailal Dass that the demand of Rs.1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kanai Lal De that the demand of Rs.1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kanai Lal De that the demand of Rs. 1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jyoti Basu that the demand of Rs.1,63,76,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs.1,63,76,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5.45 p.m. till 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 27th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 27th March, 1947, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 199 members.

Postponement of questions and answers in hand.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been arranged that there will be no questions today so that the House may rise earlier. We will take up the Budget at once.

Mr. ESKANDER ALI KHAN: Will the questions held over today be taken up tomorrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the desire of the House that no questions will be taken up tomorrow?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: No, not tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that is the case with Saturday also?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: On Saturday also we will have no questions. With regard to the demands for grants, guillotine will fall at 12 o'clock on Saturday.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

43—Industries—Industries and 72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,69,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development".

Sir, I am anticipating criticisms, but I want to place before the House a statement of the industrial policy that the Government hopes to pursue during the next few years.

In moving for the sanction of this grant I feel that you would expect me to make some reference to what industrial policy and programme the Government is pursuing or proposes to pursue in the interest of Bengal's economic progress. Before I do so in concrete terms I hope you will please bear with me if I briefly recapitulate some of the problems confronting the industries which exist today or those industries which we want to build up anew so as to meet the progressive requirements of the province. The Provincial Directorate of Industries has obviously definite limitations within which it has had to function. With the currency, fiscal and railway freight policies being administered by the Central Government it is very difficult to perfect any plan of industrial development which will have for its objective not only the economic utilisation of a varied number of industrial raw materials available in plenty in this province as also to harness into actual productive activity the vast manpower and idle labour that remain in this province. When I took over the administration of Industries portfolio I became very keenly aware of these limitations, as also of the handicaps arising out of the absence of a

well-thought-out industrial policy for the province and adequately detailed industrial data. I found that in the matter of industrial development the traditional *laissez faire* policy was still the sheet anchor of economic programme and with regard to industrial information I found that even though the Industrial Survey Committee which had been appointed some years ago had collected a mine of information covering production and distribution, there were still important gaps to be filled in. For instance, no comprehensive mineral investigation has yet been undertaken by the province, and, I am sure, it will be conceded that without being in possession of accurate information in regard to such resources as mineral, agricultural, forestry, fishery, etc., it would not only be difficult but perhaps injudicious to plan out an industrial programme for implementation in this province. It is my intention to inaugurate a complete detailed comprehensive geological survey to go into the whole question of the mineral resources of the province for I must frankly admit that we know very little about them. Recently while attending a conference convened by the Government of India in regard to the settling of a mineral policy, a charge was levelled against all the provinces that very little was done by the various Provincial Governments in the matter of preparing an accurate compendium of geological information. This criticism evoked spontaneous protest from me and I countercharged the Government of India to the effect that they were not giving assistance to the Provincial Governments in the requisite manner. I further stated that the available information collected by the Geological Survey of the Government of India have all along been kept as a closely-guarded secret for reasons unknown to us. In the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district there are petroleum deposits. Certain amount of prospective work has been done by a private individual but this was not followed up, I regret to state, by the Government. Similarly in the Garo Hills bordering the Mymensingh district valuable deposits of coal have been found but little or nothing is known about these deposits, so far as we are concerned. In the Terais of the Himalayas there are many valuable minerals such as coal and iron and we know very little of these. Nobody knew before the war that such valuable mineral like Vanadium which is very precious and which is not available in most of the countries has been found very near Bengal and so important has been the discovery that little time was lost in the creation of a Vanadium Trust to protect this invaluable mineral from uneconomical exploitation. It is, therefore, my intention to undertake a survey of the mineral deposits of the province by the application of more up-to-date methods, particularly by the Geo-Physical one. If any industrial plan has really to be made effective it must be based on detailed economic data relating to Bengal's resources, both existing and potential and must have a time phase. Not only so, its working should have the moral and financial support of the vast majority of our population for unless such a plan caters to the needs and requirements of the villager, that is to say, the common man, it will fail in its objective, namely, to better the economic position of the average man. In the formulation of a well-considered programme, there are other difficulties as well which are no less serious and retarding in their effect. They are (a) the low standard of literacy in the countryside where more than 90 per cent. of the population live but where only four to five per cent. of the people may be called literates, and (ii) the concentration of Bengal's 80 per cent. of industries within a circle of 50 miles of Calcutta. These two facts have created special problems for Bengal which have to be tackled in a special manner and a special programme of planning should be drawn up to meet the specific needs of the province. As such, it is hardly possible to formulate a standardised industrial plan on the lines of more advanced countries where cent. per cent. literacy has been achieved and already a decentralised system of industrial development prevails. By referring to these difficulties I do not suggest to convey the idea that these problems are insurmountable or it is not possible to chalk out a

constructive programme for Bengal—a programme which when executed in its fulness will make the people of the province happy and prosperous. I would request you to remember that we are now on the very threshold of great constitutional changes, and although we are not yet aware of the shape of things to come, we may feel confident that as a province Bengal is going to attain the maximum political autonomy which is bound to change the very colour and character of our industrial programme which we may now formulate with reference to existing facts. Having this consideration in view, we must necessarily be very cautious as well as far-sighted enough to envisage a policy and programme that will suit our short period as well as long period requirements in the best possible manner.

I would now proceed to outline the future industrial programme for Bengal such as I visualise it. But for the difficulties over which we have no control immediately and the difficulties which will still continue for such considerable time yet because of the unsettled economic and constitutional situation in the country, I would have by now been able to initiate effective steps in formulating our policy before making public announcements. It is my intention to invite representatives of all sections of this House to meet me in a conference when I shall be in a position to unfold in detail my scheme of industrial development to be brought about within a time phase of five to ten years. I must mention in this connection that in keeping to the time plan also, we shall have to experience certain difficulties over which even the Central Government have no control. I mean the availability of machinery, availability of hard currency exchange, etc. We know very little of what is happening inside Russia, but in countries where there is no blackout of news to the extent it is pursued in Russia, there are innumerable difficulties of a diverse character from labour strike to financial disorganisation which cripple not only their respective productive capacities but also their export. It is true that the productive capacity of America in so far as the manufacture of capital goods machinery is concerned has not been so hard hit as that of the United Kingdom but on account of Dollar Exchange and other difficulties we cannot take advantage of the American market.

In formulating a programme for industrial development for Bengal we cannot also afford to ignore other socio-economic factors of Bengal. As I have stated above, 90 per cent. of the people of Bengal live in villages with only 6½ per cent. living in urban areas. The majority of this 93 per cent. people live on agriculture, an occupation which keeps them busy for barely eight months in the year and practically idle for the rest of the year. The dependants of the agriculturists have very little to do and in many areas have no remunerative subsidiary occupation to fall back upon. These problems must necessarily determine the character of our industrial programme, for remedial measures devised for urban economy may not wholly suit the complicated rural economy of the province which means that we must evolve a programme and policy which will secure a balanced development of the province as a whole and ensure the greatest good to the greatest number. I have therefore given my anxious consideration to the need for such diverse policies and come to the inevitable conclusion that an industrial plan to be really successful and to have the support of the greatest number of people must be tackled from the viewpoints of social needs as grouped under the following categories in order of priority:—

- (a) Food and food products.
- (b) Clothing.
- (c) Housing.

- (d) Miscellaneous industries the products of which will go to sustain the people in meeting their daily necessities of life as also some industries the products of which will go a long way in meeting our other types of requirements.

I lay special emphasis on the last category of industries, because nobody knows what aspects or form the constitution will take after June, 1948. If defence in some form or other has to be looked after by the Provincial Government, the development of industries calculated to serve the defence requirements must also receive our serious consideration. For the present I am leaving this particular requirement out of consideration in my industrial plan which I envisage at the moment.

In regard to food you are aware that Agriculture Department is to look after this requirement, but I might say here that any planning of industrial development must necessarily be correlated to our agricultural policy for reasons which I shall presently explain. Agriculture being the basic industry of the country must necessarily be reorganised with a view to making our province as much economically self-sufficient as possible. Apart from the production of crop for the use of population as food materials, it must also produce raw materials to feed our industrial factories, not only existing now but also those which we propose to establish in the near future, and it must also produce exportable goods which can economically compete in foreign markets. To illustrate my point I would emphasise on the fact that we should lay more stress on the cultivation of cotton to be utilised for the purpose of spinning this into yarn and the yarn thus produced can be supplied to the weavers. In making this suggestion I am fully aware of the fact that the cotton grown in Bengal may not be of that quality which would enable us to spin higher counts of yarn. But as it is well-known, majority of the Bengal weavers use coarser quality of yarn and it is a fact that the cotton that can be grown in Bengal will enable us to spin yarn up to 30 to 35 counts. Besides if we mix Bengal cotton with the Punjab or Bezwada cotton we can get even better results. Similarly we should grow mustard to feed our large number of oil mills which are threatened with a very severe crisis in view of the reluctance of the United Provinces and Bihar Governments to export mustard seeds as the industrialists there prefer to utilise their own raw materials and to export the oil. Likewise, linseed should be grown in more quantity to enable us to utilise the same for the purpose of manufacturing such articles as linoleum paints, etc. I lay emphasis on export industries because one of the objectives of our industrial programme should be to transform the position of India from a raw-material-producing country to that of an exporter of industrial goods subject to the basic needs of her internal economy. I do not rule out the possibility of our export of raw materials provided we have an exportable surplus after having met our essential food requirements, but this is a thing which should be incidental and not essential to an expansionist export policy for the country.

In other words we will have to create and maintain a balance of trade in favour of India in order that sufficient foreign exchange may be available for the importation of necessary machinery, equipments and materials for India's industrial progress, and for the maintenance of a decent economic standard in the country.

So the first objectives of our economic planning should be to achieve a dynamic equilibrium between agriculture and industry.

Since availability of cheap power is the first requisite for progressive industrialisation, the question of power development has received the earnest consideration of Government. (At this stage the Hon'ble Minister reached his time-limit.) Sir, may I have another ten minutes?

Mr. SPEAKER: I can give you one minute more. I have already given you more than fifteen minutes. The House will rise early and you have got to finish now.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: We on this side, Sir, are cutting down our time.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, they are cutting down their time, so may I continue?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: We are cutting down our time for the safety of all the members and not in your favour.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: As this is a very important matter dealing with the question of policy, may I have ten minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEA: আগে ট্রামওয়ে কোম্পানীর বক্ষণভোগী মিটিংয়ে দিন।

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: বক্ষণ পড়ে হবে।

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order, Sir—I find that the demand still includes expenditure on Fisheries, although year after year it has been pointed out that the “Fisheries” is not the responsibility of the Hon'ble Minister of Industries. It is the responsibility of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. I cannot quite understand why the matter is never put right. It has been pointed out on three previous occasions. I would ask through you, Sir,—is the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture going to make a statement about Fisheries or is the Industries' Minister going to make a reply on the points raised about Fisheries? It is a very important subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: I can make a statement of policy before the House, and I can reply to the points to be raised in the debate afterwards.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, while going through the Red Book I find that expenditure on Fisheries is included under the head “Industries”. Should we take it that this department is amalgamated with the Department of Industries or is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture still responsible for Fisheries?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister of Agriculture has said that it is within his portfolio and he is prepared to give a reply to the cut motions relating to Fisheries. It is only the budget head that has not been changed.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: The answer the Hon'ble Minister has given still confuses the issue. If the Minister in charge of Industries is responsible for the Department of Fisheries, he should reply to the cut motions and not the Minister for Agriculture. I think there should be no divided responsibility.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question of divided responsibility. As I understood from the discussions here the expenditure is put under the head “Industries”, but administratively the Fisheries Department is within the portfolio of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture. So he gave his reply with regard to the matter relating to Fisheries. Of course, this was mentioned in the last year's budget discussion and I hope the Government will take note that expenditure for the Department of Fisheries is not put down under head “Industries”.

Mr. SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs.100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to protect silk industry and give adequate relief to the filature owners and rearers.

Mr. PRAFULLA RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the policy of distribution of yarn to the fishermen.

Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKER: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43 Industries—Industries" and "72 Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the exploitation of coastal and estuarine fisheries and provision of fishing fleet.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43 Industries—Industries" and "72 Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to develop cottage industries in Bengal specially that of hand-spinning.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43 Industries—Industries" and "72 Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the extreme inconvenience and great loss sustained by many industries on account of acute shortage accentuated by faulty system of distribution of essential raw materials and the Government's failure to provide any effective remedy or relief.

Mr. SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I intend to deal with a subject which has long been neglected and received a step-motherly treatment from the Government. This industry is in existence from time immemorial, and the fame of the Indian Silk spread throughout the length and breadth of Europe during the time of the Moghul Emperors. Attracted by the fabulous story of wealth and riches of India European traders—the French, the Portuguese and the British gradually came in and tried to establish permanent business relations with the Indians. I do not want to recapitulate all the historical details but the scope of this industry further widened and its popularity and fame increased with the advent of these foreign traders. They established factories in various parts of India and the East India Company after experimenting with Surat and Masulipatam had its headquarters established at Kasimbazar. Thus the foundation stone of the British Empire was laid. When the British rule was firmly established in the latter part of the 18th century, British traders gradually took the entire field and by means of advances and loans captured the industry. It must be said however that the industry received an extraordinary stimulus from the efforts of the East India Company; with their capital the industry was kept alive and they reaped a rich harvest. With the advent of foreign silk however in the early twenties and specially Japanese and Chinese silk, the position of silk industry deteriorated and the growers and rearers found it very difficult to stand in competition. The companies that were established tried to protect their interest and established filatures and factories on more scientific lines. After the exit of the East India Company the Government took no interest to establish or improve the said industry, vacuum created by the exit of the East India Company was filled up by Japan. It was

as late as 1909 that the Government at the insistence of Bengal Silk Company started the Department of Sericulture. The industry however suffered due to lack of trained hands, scientific methods of treatment and failure of crops. The Government treated it as a part of Agriculture and although experts, like Mr. Leffroy, were invited from France, they received little or no support from the Government and ultimately left this country in disgust.

The import of raw silk in India rose from 14 lakh pounds in 1924 to 32 lakh pounds in 1932-33 and it was gradually on the increase when World War II broke out. While production went down imports increased and Japan and China gradually captured the field. This decline is due entirely to foreign competition and lack of assistance from Government and this is borne out by the enquiry of the Tariff Board. Besides these direct encroachments there are indirect factors such as imports of artificial silk, mixed goods which seriously compete with the products of the charkha silk and silk handlooms. This has affected the purchasing power of the local weavers and has compelled them to use more and more of cheap foreign silks and substitutes of silk thus further diminishing the home market for natural silk. But in spite of all these Bengal Silk is still surviving because of its inherent vitality.

The Tariff Enquiry Committee observed "In no part of the world has the industry flourished without such assistance. The history of Sericulture Industry in France is particularly the history of the bounties paid to it from time to time by the Government. Italian practice has not been dissimilar. The amounts which the Japanese Government spends on the industry are about 90 lakhs a year. These financial sacrifices have been more than justified by the numerous incomes which these countries obtain from their respective silk industries". Sir, the Government of Bengal is still unmindful of the importance of this industry and does not care in the least for it, and it was only during the World War II that the Central Government came to its aid in its own interest. Filatures were started with state aid and subsidies and it was proved to the world that Bengal can also produce silk of the highest quality and can easily compete with the more advanced countries of the world. After the termination of the war all grants were stopped and owing to difficulties of coal all the filatures numbering more than 100 in Murshidabad alone had ceased to work.

Sir, the decline of this industry is due to foreign competition and want of scientific assistance. Now the remedies are that if the Government seriously wants to help to develop industry, first of all it ought to start Silk Rearing Farms in each thana of Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Malda, Birbhum and Bankura where people can be supplied with disease-free cocoons.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

MR. PRAFULLA RANJAN SARKER:

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, আমার Cut motion টির সম্বন্ধে ইহাই বলব যে বাংলাদেশের মৎস্য-জীবিশণের মধ্যে জ্ঞান তৈয়ারী করিবার সূতা বিতরণের গলদ বিষয়ে প্রম ও শিল্প বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ ও তাহার প্রতিকার পাইবার উদ্দেশ্যে আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাবের নেটীশ দিরাছি। আমি আশা করি মন্ত্রীমহাশয় ইহার প্রতিকারের জন্য সচেষ্ট হইবেন। আমার নিজ জেলা মৈনসিংঘের কথা আমি বিশেষ করে বলতে চাই। আমার বন্ধুদের নিকট হইতে জানিয়াছি যে, অন্যান্য জেলার মৎস্যজীবিশণের মধ্যে সূতা বিলি ব্যাপারে বহু গলদ রহিয়াছে।

এই প্রস্তাবের দ্বারা আমি পাঁচটি বিষয়ে মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে ইচ্ছা করি। প্রথম বিষয়টি এই যে মৎস্যজীবিশণকে জ্ঞান প্রস্তুত করিবার জন্য যে সূতা দেওয়া হয় তাহা প্রয়োজনীয় তুলনায় নিতান্ত অপ্রচুর; এবং বাছা দেওয়া হয় তাহাও যথা সময় দেওয়া হয় না। সূতরায় সূতার পরিমাণ হ্রাস করা উচিত। এবং বাছা সময়ে, অর্থাৎ বর্ষার বহু পূর্বে, এই সূতা দেওয়া উচিত। দ্বিতীয়

বিষয়টি হচ্ছে যে মৎস্যজীবীদিগকে যাত্রা ১০ই নম্বরের সূতা দেওয়া হয়, তাহা অত্যন্ত মোটা; এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় ও এই পরিষদের অধিকাংশ সভাই জানেন যে সর্ব সূতার জাল না হইলে বিল কিংবা নদী ঘেরাও করে মাছ ধরার সুবিধা হয় না। মাছও তাতে ধরা দিতে চায় না। ওজননের দ্বারা বাস্তবিক প্রাপ্ত হইবার নিয়ম থাকার মোটা সূতার দৈর্ঘ্য অনেক কম হয়। মৎস্য বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মিঃ আমেদ হোসেন মহাশয় ও২নং তারকা চিহ্নিত প্রশ্নের উত্তরে বাহা বলিয়াছিলেন তাহা আমি পড়িয়া দিছি।

“(c) As the supply is inadequate to requirement, no definite quota has been allotted to any district. As supplies are available, they are distributed *ad hoc*, having regard to requirements in the different districts.

(d) The yarn is distributed by Subdivisional Officers with the help of Fishery Officers, wherever such officers are available in accordance with the instructions of the Fisheries Directorate.”

এই দুইটি উত্তর থেকে বেশ বোঝা যায় যে গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন সূত্ৰ নীতি অবলম্বন করিয়া সূতা বিতরণ করেন না। কোটা নির্ণয় করিতে না পারিবার কোন কারণ আমরা দেখিতেছি না। কারণ প্রথমতঃ কোথায় কত মৎস্যজীবী আছে এবং কত সূতা তাহাদের প্রয়োজন, তাহা কোন দিনই তাহার সাংগ্ৰহ করেন নাই। সাংগ্ৰহ করিবার মত মনোবৃত্তিও তাহাদের নাই, কারণ তাহাতে আত্মীয় পোষাশে যোগ্যযোগ উপস্থিত, কাজেই অনির্দিষ্ট ভাবে থাকা উচিত। *Ad hoc* ভাবে কাজ করা যাবে। তাহাতে কাছাকাছি লাভবান, কাছাকাছিও ভ্রম করা সম্ভব হতে পারবে। কোন একটি শিল্প চালাইতে হইলে, তাহা যে প্রাথমিক কাজ, সেটা গভর্ণমেন্ট করেনও করেন নাই। কারণ নীতি পর্যাণ্ত সকলেই জাতিক সমাজে আছেন, বাহা কিছু সাংগ্ৰহ করিতে হইবে তাহার জন্য নিরন্তর পণ্ডিত চাকর ভেতনের চৌকিমাথাকেই সব তথ্য সাংগ্ৰহ করিতে হয়। Centralised করিবার জন্যই এই *Ad hoc* বিতরণের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছে। ইটা পরিবর্তিত হওয়া উচিত।

জালের দৈর্ঘ্য কম হইলেই মাছ নিশ্চয় কম মাত্রায় পড়া পড়বে। ফলে মাছের দর বাঁধি পাওয়া সম্ভাব্যিক। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের মত করেওজন লাভাবান লোকের পক্ষে উক্ত দরে মাছ খাওয়া হইতে সম্ভব হইতে পারে, কিন্তু অন্যের পক্ষে নিশ্চয়ই সম্ভব হইবে না। সূতরায় উক্ত নম্বরের যথা ৩০।৩২।৪০ নম্বরের সূতা জালের জন্য দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারেন কিনা, সেটা জাবিয়া দেখিতে মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি। তৃতীয় বিষয়টি হইল এই যে, যে পরিমাণ সূতা Multipurpose Society-র মাধ্যমে বিল করিবার জন্য দেওয়া হয়, তাহা চোরা পথেই বেশী যাতায়ত করে দেখিতে পাই, এবং সাধারণ নাম ১০ টাকা বাস্তবিক হইলেও, চোরা পথে ৮০ টাকা বাস্তবিক বিক্রয় হতে দেখা যায়। মৎস্যজীবীদিগ উদ্দেশ্যে সূতা খরিদ করিতে বাধ্য হওয়ার, অনেক স্থলে মাছের কারবার পরিত্যাগ করে, কিংবা অধিক দরে মাছ বিক্রয় করিতে বাধ্য হয়। মৎস্য ব্যবসা দ্বারা জীবন ধারণোপযোগী খাদ্যভোগ সাংগ্ৰহ করিবার বাহ্যদের পরজ আছে তাহাদের পক্ষে এই বিতরণের প্রত্যক্ষ যোগাযোগ না থাকায়, চোরা পথে বাইতে তাহারা বাধ্য হয়। সূতরায় চোরা বাজার বন্ধ করা একান্ত আবশ্যিক হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। গোয়েন্দা বিভাগ রাডনৈতিক কর্মীদের ধরিবার জন্য খুবই উৎসাহী; কিন্তু চোরা কারবারীদের ধরিয়া চোরা বাজার বন্ধ করিতে তাহারা একেবারে অক্ষম। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের নিকট আমার বিশেষ অনুরোধ, তিনি যেন এদিকে দৃষ্টি দেন, এবং বাহাতে চোরাকারবার সম্পূর্ণরূপে বন্ধ করে যার তার প্রকৃত ব্যবস্থা করেন।

চতুর্থ বিষয়টি হচ্ছে—যে, মৎস্যজীবীদিগের দ্বারা Union Society গঠন করিয়া তাহাদিগকে জালের জন্য সূতা দেওয়া। বাহাদের জীবিকা এই জাল ভেঁয়াড়ীর উপর নির্ভর করে, ও বাহারা মাছ ধরিয়া সারা বাজার বাঘের একাংশ প্রবরাহ করিবার জন্য অশেষ দুঃখ ভোগ ও কষ্ট স্বীকার করিয়া থাকে, তাহাদের বিশ্বাস করিয়া সূতা দিবার কোন আপত্তি থাকিতে পারে না, ও থাকা উচিত নয়। এ বিষয়ে শিল্প বিভাগীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের সূচীক্ষা ও সূক্ষ্ম দৃষ্টি দেওয়া একান্ত কর্তব্য। তবে চোরা বাজার দ্বারা বাহাদের মোটাজাত হতে পারতো, তারা বাদ সাধতে পারে। বিল ও নদী ঘেরাও করিয়া মাছ ধরিতে হইলে সর্ব সূতার দীর্ঘ জাল একান্ত আবশ্যিক; কারণ মোটা জাল টানা যায় না, এবং সম্পূর্ণ ঘেরাও না করিলে মাছ পাগিয়ে যায়। যদি Special Power Ordinance দ্বারা মাছ আটকান যেতো, তাহা হইলে এত জালপোষার প্রয়োজন ছিল না।

পঞ্চম ও শেষ বিবরণি ছিল যে, ইহাকে একান্ত সাম্প্রদায়িক করিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। সূতার এই কোটা মত্ব্যাজীবী সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে রাখিবেন। শিল্প বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের প্রজ্ঞাদরদী ছিলেন। এখনও তাহার সে নীতি পরিবর্তিত হয় নাই বলিয়া আমাদের বিশ্বাস আছে। আমার কথাগুলি নিছক শিল্প দলের বিরোধমূলক বক্তৃতা বলিয়া মনে না করিলে, সূচী হইবে। এই বিভাগের সম্বন্ধে তথ্য, সূতা বিতরণের পরিমাণ সবদসাধারণের জন্য উচিত। বাংলাদেশের মাছ একটি বিশিষ্ট খাদ্য। দেখা যায় আমেরিকা ছইতে সমুদ্রের অতি সাধারণ মাছের তরকারী কোটার পুরিয়া কলিকাতার বিক্রয় হচ্ছে, উহার নামও পুবে সস্তা—ইহার প্রতি শিল্প বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হওয়া উচিত।

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Mr. PRAFULLA RANJAN SARKER : আর এক মিনিট প্যার। সরকার পনের মাননীয় সদস্যগণের মাছের আবশ্যকতা থাকিলে ও মত্ব্যাজীবী গণের মধ্যে সূতা বিতরণের গলদ থাকিলে, ও তাহা দূর করিবার উদ্দেশ্যে যে cut-motion আমি উপস্থিত করছি, তাহা সমর্থনে তাহাদের কোন বাধা থাকিবে না বলিয়া আমি বিশ্বাস করি।

আমার এই cut-motion অদ্য পরিবর্তে গৃহীত হইবার জন্য সুপারিশ করিয়া আমি আসন গ্রহণ করিলাম।

Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKER :

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, বাংলাদেশের প্রধান খাদ্য জাত—জাত যাহাদের প্রধান খাদ্য তাহাদের পক্ষে মাছ অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় ও উচ্চ স্বাস্থ্যের পক্ষে অতি মূল্যবান। কারণ পুষ্টিকর খাদ্যের মধ্যে মাছের পৌষ্টিক খাদ্যমূল্য খুব বেশী। সেক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশের উৎকর্ষ সাধনের জন্য মৎস্য চাষ ও মৎস্য ব্যবসায়ের উন্নতি বিধান জামি চাষের ন্যায় একান্ত আবশ্যকীয়। এদেশে দুধ অত্যন্ত কম, এবং এখানের সাধারণ লোকের খাদ্য দ্বারা শারীরিক পুষ্টির জন্য যে পরিমাণ Cereals শরীরের পক্ষে সাধারণতঃ দরকার তাহা পাওয়া যায় না, অথচ মাছ ইহার অনেকখানি সাহায্য করিতে পারে। মাছ এখন বাংলাদেশে অতি কম পাওয়া যায় এবং যেটুকু পাওয়া যায় তাহাও এত ব্যয়সাধ্য যে মাছ খাওয়া একটা বিলাসিতা বলেই, সাধারণ লোকের মনে হয়; অথচ এই মাছ না ছইলে বাংলাদেশের অসামঞ্জস্য খাদ্যে শারীরিক পুষ্টিসাধন ছইতে পারে না এবং ইহার অভাবে ছয়কু' বাঙ্গালীর ভীষন শক্তি ক্রমে ক্রমে ক্ষয়িত হইতেছে ও নানারূপ ব্যাধিগ্ৰস্ত হইয়া পড়িতেছে।

এখন গ্রামের পুষ্করণী, বিল ও বিলগুলি প্রায় পলি পড়িয়া মজিয়া ও পচিয়া যাওয়ার মাছের চাষের পরিবর্তে মশা, মাছির বাসস্থান হইয়াছে। ফলে গ্রামগুলিতে মালেরিয়া, কলেরা, টাইফয়েড ইত্যাদি রোগ অত্যধিক প্রবল হইয়াছে ও পানীয় জলের অভাব ইত্যাদি নানারূপ সমস্যার উদ্ভব হইয়াছে। গভর্ণ-মেন্টের সাহায্য ব্যতিরেকে এইগুলির সত্যকারের উন্নতি সাধন করা সম্ভব নয়, সে জন্য যদি গভর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্যে এইগুলির সত্যকারের উন্নতি সাধন করা যায়, তাহলে তাহাতে গ্রামের স্বাস্থ্যের ও খাদ্যের অভাব দূর করা সম্ভব হয়। শূন্য উপদেশ দেওয়ার জন্যই কয়েকটি লোক নিয়ুক্ত করিলেই কার্য সাধিত হওয়া সম্ভব নয়। সেই সঙ্গে সঙ্গে স্থানীয় লোকেও যাহারা অর্থকরী ব্যবসায় করিতে পারে তাহাও গভর্ণমেন্টের দপনীয়। যেমন পুকুর ও বিলের পলি ভুলিয়া যদি বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়ে মাছের চাষ করা যায় তাহাতে পরসী বেশী পাওয়া যায় ও পুকুর, বিল, বিল ইত্যাদি পরিষ্কার থাকিতে অসুখও কম হয়। কিন্তু গ্রামে যাঁহারা এই সবের মালিক তাঁহারা প্রায় কলিকাতার বা গ্রামের বাহিরে থাকেন এবং যাঁহারা গ্রামে থাকেন তাঁহারা জানেন না যে অল্প ব্যয়ে ও পরিপ্রবে বেশী পরসী আসিতে পারে; কারণ তাঁহাদের এ বিষয়ে কোন শিক্ষা ও জ্ঞান নাই। তাহারও কারণ, হিসাবে দেখা যায় যে আমার এখনও মহেন্দ্রো-দরোর যুগেই সব" বিষয়ে পড়িয়া আছি। মাছের ডিম গ্রামে পাওয়া যায় না। বরাকালে স্বাভাবিক চারা মাছ থেকে ইহার কাজ করিতে বাধ্য হয়। তৎসঙ্গে refrigeration, transportation ও marketing এর ব্যবস্থা না থাকিতে এই ব্যবসারে গ্রামে বেশী পরসী পাওয়া যায় না, কারণ যদি কেহ চাষ করে তাহা ছইলে মাছ বে সময় ধরে, এইগুলির অভাবে তখনই বিক্রয় করিতে হয় বলিয়া অর্থ বেশী পাওয়া যায় না। কিন্তু এই মাছের চাষ করিলে, পুকুর পরিষ্কার থাকিতে সেখানে অসুখ বিস্ময় কম হয়, ও পুকুরের পাড়গুলিতে জলজ না হইয়া অনেক নিতা প্রয়োজনীয় জাবান করা বাইতে পারে, ও তাহাতে গ্রামের ঐ ও সৌন্দর্য্য দুই বৃদ্ধি হয়। পো-এন্সের জন্য কেবল উন্নত ধরনের পো-প্রজনন

(cattle breeding) প্রয়োজনই হবে, ইহার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাস ও খড়ের আবশ্যকতা আছে। বরীকামে ইহার অভাবে প্রায়ের গরুগুলির দুরবস্থা চরম অবস্থা হয়। সুতরাং ইহারও কিছুটা সমাধান তদ্বারা সম্ভব।

মাছের চাষ ও ব্যবসায়ের উন্নতির জন্য নদীর ঘোষনা ছিল, চুদ, পুকুর, ও সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য চাষের প্রয়োজন। এই জন্য একটি 'Long range plan' গণপরিষদের করা একান্ত আবশ্যিক, এবং তৎসঙ্গে মৎস্য ব্যবসায়ের জন্য Refrigeration, Transportation ও ভাল Marketing এর ব্যবস্থা প্রয়োজন। কিন্তু ইহা কোন ব্যক্তি বিশেষের (Individual man) পক্ষে সম্ভব নয়। একমাত্র গণপরিষদই জনসাধারণের সহিত মিলিত হইয়া ইহা সম্ভব করিতে পারে। সমুদ্র মাছ ধরবার কোনরূপ ব্যবস্থা বাংলাতে নাই বলিলেও অত্যাধিক হইবে না যদিও প্রকৃতিক সুযোগ ও সুবিধা বিদ্যমান।

কলিকাতার নিকটবর্তী যে ভ্রমশালি আছে, যাহাকে সাধারণতঃ ভেড়ী বলে, তাহার আয়তন বড় কম নহে। ইহা একবারে সুন্দরবনের নিকট বংশোদ্ভূতদের সহিত মিলিত হইয়াছে। বিদ্যাদেবী ও অন্যান্য নদীগুলি দিয়া জোয়ারের তলের সহিত নোনা মাছগুলি আপনিই আসিত, ও ভাটার সময় জল বাহির হইয়া গেলেও বেশী ভাগ মাছ এই ভ্রমশালিতে থাকিয়া যায়, এবং এই সঙ্গে কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশনের ময়লা জল এই বিদ্যাদেবী নদী দিয়া বাহির হইত বলিয়া মাছের খাবারের কোনরূপ অভাব হইত না। কিন্তু সংস্কারের অভাবে এই নদীর ও পার্শ্ববর্তী খালের ঘোষনাগুলি পলিমাটিতে বন্ধ হইয়া যাওয়ার, নোনা মাছের চাষ একরূপ বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছে। অথচ কলিকাতার খাল দিয়া গঙ্গার জল বাহির এখন সুব্যবস্থা ছিল যে এই পলিমাটি জমিতে পরিত না; কিন্তু Lockgate গুলি বন্ধ রাখিবার ফলে তাহা এখন আর সম্ভব হয় না। এই বন্ধ ভ্রমের সহিত কর্পোরেশনের ময়লা মিশিয়া দূর্গন্ধময় অস্বাস্থ্যকর অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে, এবং মশার উপশ্রুতমূল ও আবাসস্থান হইয়াছে। ম্যালেরিয়া যেখানে প্রায় ছিল না বলিলেই হয়, সেখানে আজ ম্যালেরিয়া পরিপূর্ণ। কেবল এই মশা ও ম্যালেরিয়া যে এই স্থানেই সীমাবদ্ধ ভাবে আছে তাহা নয় বরং কলিকাতার খালের পড়া ভ্রমের সাহায্যে কলিকাতার পার্শ্ববর্তী স্থানে মশার সৃষ্টি বেশ ভাল ভাবেই আরম্ভ হয়েছে এবং তৎসঙ্গে ম্যালেরিয়া বড় কম হয় নাই। মধ্য কলিকাতাতেও ইহার বিস্তৃতি আরম্ভ হইয়াছে এবং আরও কিছু দিন এই ভাবে চলিলে কলিকাতা সমস্ত বাংলার অন্যান্য গ্রামের ন্যায় ম্যালেরিয়ায় পরিপূর্ণ হইবে।

মাছের চাষ এইভাবে নষ্ট হওয়ার অনেক ভ্রমশালি নিভের ব্যবস্থা চাড়াই দিতে বাধ্য হইতে হইয়াছে, ও দিন-মজুরী করিয়া জীবনধারণ করিতে হইতেছে। এখন গণপরিষদ ইচ্ছা করিলে অল্প ব্যয়ে জনসাধারণের আয়ের ব্যবস্থা করিতে ও স্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতি করিতে পারে, কিন্তু সেমিক দৃষ্টি না দিয়া কেবল মাত্র মজুত ও ব্যক্তিগত স্বার্থের দিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়ার বাংলার জনসাধারণের, সে হিন্দুই হউক বা মুসলমানই হউক, অসহ্য ক্রমেই নীচুতে নামিয়া যাইতেছে, বিশেষতঃ যাহারা গরীব তাহাদের। এই জন্য আমি গণপরিষদের এই দিকে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি যে তাহারা যেন বাঙালি বরাদ্দ করিয়া সাধারণ গরীবদের হাতাতে উন্নতি হয় সে দিকে লক্ষ্য দেন। যদি একবারে, এই মৎস্য চাষের নিমিত্ত প্রয়োজনীয় অর্থ বাংলা গণপরিষদ বাঙালি বরাদ্দ করিতে অসমর্থ হন, তাহা হইলে একটি সম্পূর্ণ পরিকল্পনা তৈরী করিয়া, প্রতি বৎসরে কিছু কিছু অর্থ ব্যয় করিয়া ইহা কিছু কিছু করিয়া কাছাকাছি করিলে, পাঁচ বৎসরে এই পরিকল্পনানুযায়ী কাছাকাছি সম্পূর্ণ হইতে পারে।

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with great reluctance I rise to speak in support of my cut motion, because I am at one with our honourable Leader of the Opposition that it is sheer waste of time to participate in a debate of this House. It is my painful experience in the past that the Government have paid little heed to any constructive suggestion put on behalf of the Opposition. For the last 10 years I am pleading that the Government should do something for the betterment of cottage industries of Bengal specially hand-spinning and hand-weaving, but it is really unfortunate that due to the criminal ignorance and inefficiency on the part of the Government they have not moved an inch in these directions. It is amazing to hear from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries in reply to an honourable member of the

Opposition that attempt of Government to popularise *khadi* and hand-spinning has not attended with much success. I wonder if there had been any real attempt on the part of the Government in these directions, though I definitely remember that the Hon'ble Chief Minister nearly 3 years ago then as a Minister of Civil Supplies promised in a press conference that the Government would take up a hand-spinning programme to overcome the acute yarn shortage of the Province. It is foolish to dub hand-spinning as uneconomic and unpracticable while now in Germany they are taking up hand-spinning again as I learn from a recent press report and you all know, Sir, that China was able to clothe herself during the last war mainly through hand-spinning and hand-weaving.

In our district, with the very limited resources at the command of our District Congress Committee, we have popularised *khadi* and hand-spinning to an extent that many villages are self-supporting as regards cloth. I think the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries and many of the supporters of the Government do not know that a person can earn 10 to 12 annas a day by plying *charka* and that it is very popular among the Muslims, specially their women folk. By launching on a scheme for merely ten lakhs of rupees the Government could have put crores in the pockets of Bengal villagers and saved Bengal from the acute cloth famine she suffered and is still suffering. I may inform the House that as early as in 1941 in a speech on the floor of the House I predicted that Bengal is sure to face an acute cloth shortage if the Government did not take up a vigorous programme of hand-spinning and hand-weaving. But the Government being inefficient to the extreme slept over the matter to the utter misery of the people of the province.

Sir, I am suggesting year after year that an autonomous Handloom Board should immediately be formed for the development of the handloom industry. As you know, Sir, the handloom industry is at the mercy of three departments, viz., the Industries, the Co-operative and the Civil Supply Departments, and there is absolutely no co-ordination among the three departments. The Handloom Board should be formed to effect this co-ordination with the heads of the three departments and a few members of the Assembly from the districts where there is predominance of handloom weavers. The Minister in charge of Industries should be its Chairman. It should be remembered that handloom industry is the main cottage industry of the province and its output is nearly as much as the output of the cotton mills of Bengal. The Government is so callous as regards this major cottage industry of the province that in the All-India Handloom Board they have sent representatives who know very little of handloom industry and are in no way connected with the handloom industry though it is specifically understood that the representatives must come from the handloom industry and in Bengal there is an Association of Handloom Industry representing weavers of many districts of Bengal and important persons and Government officials like the Principal of the Bengal Textile Institute which is recognised by both the Industries and the Co-operative Departments of the Government, might have been sent as representatives. But Bengal is represented in the All-India Handloom Board by two non-officials, one of whom can speak well if he wills but seldom attends the meeting and the other, of course, attends but cannot utter a word. Both of them are Muslims. It is a pity that Government think communally even in these matters which vitally affect the welfare of the whole of the province irrespective of community. The Chief Minister recently uttered high-flown statements about United Bengal and asked for co-operation of all sections of the House. But I may say on behalf of our section of the House and also of that section of Bengal from which I come, namely, West Bengal, that we are thoroughly disgusted with the present Ministry. It is impossible to tolerate this state of affairs any more. Let that section of Bengal where the majority is indifferent to the welfare of the minority carry on with the present

Ministry if they like—we do not grumble. But I can say on behalf of the people of that section of Bengal where we are in a majority that we are bidding a final good-bye and we will henceforth refuse to be governed by this hopelessly inefficient communal Ministry.

Mr. KHAIRAT HOSSAIN: মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, ১৯৪৬-৪৭ বাজেটে যে টাকা বরা হয়েছিল এবারের বাজেটে Industries খাতে তার চেয়ে বেশী টাকা বরা হয়েছে দেখা যাচ্ছে। কিন্তু গত বৎসরের যে Revised Estimate দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে দেখা যায় যে এখনও ১৭ লক্ষ ২০ হাজার টাকা খরচ করা হয় নাই বা খরচ করতে পারেন নাই। কিন্তু এখনই তাঁদের কাছে গ্রামে গ্রামে ছুটু ছুটু Cottage industry করবার কথা বলি ও অর্থ সাহায্য করতে বলি তখনই তাঁরা শোনান টাকা নাই। কিন্তু টাকা থাকতে যদি তাঁরা সাহায্য করতে না চান তাহলে আমরা নিরুপার। তাই মনে হয় এবারের বাজেটে এত বেশী টাকা না ধরে কিছু কম টাকা ধরলে পারতেন।

Five years plan সম্বন্ধে পূর্ব Ministry আশ্বাস দিয়েছিলেন যে State Industry Act amend করা হলে, Cottage industry কে সাহায্য করবার ব্যবস্থা করা হবে, কিন্তু এ পর্যন্ত কোন কিছুই করা হয় নাই। কেবলমাত্র কয়েকটি Circle Officer নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে তারা Industry Department-এ কোন সমস্যা কিছু টাকা recommend করেন ও approve করেন তাহাড়া আর কিছু কাজ হয় না, আর কতগুলি চাকুরি সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে।

আমি আমার নিজের নিবর্তন কেন্দ্রে গোমতি নামে একটি ভারপার কথাই বলছি, সেখানে ২৫০ ঘর কাসারীর বাস তারা পিতল, তামা, কাসা ইত্যাদির বাসন পত্র তৈরী করত কিন্তু দুই বৎসর হতে কোন রকম Bell-metal না পাওয়ার তারা তাদের শৈল্পিক পেশা বাদ দিয়ে চার আবাছের কাজ করতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। এ সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরের কাছে অনেক লেখালেখি করেও কোন ফল হয় নাই। তাঁরা কেউ বলেন এটা Civil Supply Department এর ব্যাপার, কেউ বলেন এটা Co-operative Department এর ব্যাপার—এই করে Bell-metal industry dying condition এ এসে পৌঁছেছে কিন্তু তাদের revive করার কোন চেষ্টা হচ্ছে না। ফলে এই অঞ্চলের ২৫০ ঘর কাসারীর সংসার যাত্রা নিবর্তন করা কঠিন হয়ে পড়েছে এবং তাদের এই শিক্ষাকোশলও নষ্ট হতে বসেছে।

১৯৪০ সালে স্যার নার্সিংহাম বখন নীলফামারী গিয়েছিলেন, তিনি এখানকার পিতল কাসার জিনিষপত্র দেখে বিশেষ সন্তুষ্ট হয়ে এর প্রশংসা করে এসেছেন।

North Bengal-এর যারা Electric licence পাবার জন্য ১৭ মাস ঘোরা ঘুর করছে তারা licence পাচ্ছে না, পাচ্ছে কতগুলি অযোগ্য লোক, কিন্তু কিতাবে যে তারা licence যোগাড় করছে তা জানা যাচ্ছে না তবে এই পর্যন্ত জানা যায় যে, licence পেতে হলে Industry Department এর বড় কৰ্তাদের কিছু ভাগ বখরা দিতে হয়, তাদের তৃপ্ত করতে হয়। না হলে licence পাওয়া যায় না।

Dr. PRATAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY : তা আমরায় জানি।

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: I trust, Sir, you feel as much as I do that we are conducting our discussion today in an atmosphere of unreality. The atmosphere in this House does not correspond to what it is outside. I feel this contradiction most poignantly as a member of the general public as also as one associated with the business and trade of this province. With recurring riots and continuing strikes, how can the Government expect that trade and industry will flourish? The Hon'ble Minister himself has not enhanced his reputation, to say the least, by the way in which he has handled the Tramway Strike. Unless riots can be quelled and strikes settled, the industry and trade of this province will languish. Woe betide Bengal if that is the way in which the foundation of a sovereign Bengal is to be laid!

Sir, I owe it to my constituency to say a few words about the difficulties they are experiencing on account of shortage of raw materials. I have with me here a large number of letters which I first had intended to read out but time will not permit me to do that. The refrain of all the letters

is that "we will have to close down all our factories unless we get essential raw materials". I know that the reason why old, established factories are not getting essential raw materials is that the Government have propounded a noble theory of helping Muslims to establish themselves in trade and industry. I would not have quarrelled with that policy if they had also taken care of organised industry. But even with regard to the Muslims what is happening? Permits are being issued to Muslims who are selling them out to others at a high profit. Individual Muslims are enriching themselves but most of them are not establishing themselves in trade and industry.

Sir, so far as distribution of raw materials is concerned I know the Hon'ble Minister may say that it is not his job, but the job of the Civil Supplies Department and that it devolves upon the Director of Consumers' Goods. But I will say two things: First, as Minister for Industries he should have made it his business to intervene in the matter and come to the rescue of distressed industrial establishments. Secondly, I hear that there has been a proposal for entrusting distribution of essential raw materials to industries to the Industries Department leaving the distribution of civilian consumers' goods only to the Civil Supplies Department. That may possibly improve matters but I will not hazard any opinion until I have seen the scheme in operation. We understand that Government have been considering this proposal for over 3 months, but they have not yet come to any decision in the matter. On many occasions in the past in this very House we have had assurances from Government that various proposals have been under their consideration but final conclusions never emerge! In this fertile province of Bengal, Sir, we have the sorry spectacle of a sterile Ministry which claims to be quick at conceiving but hardly ever gives birth to anything unless it be sanguinary riots or senseless rigmaroles. But riots and rigmaroles can only clog but never move nor quicken the wheels of industry and therefore in a large measure of the prosperity of this province. I do not know if the Hon'ble Minister realises the difficulties which industries are experiencing today and unless something is done immediately they will have no other alternative but to gradually languish. It appears to me that political chimeras and fantasies have so blinded the Government that they do not even realise that their special brand of political heaven is being built upon the quicksands of slow but sure economic disintegration of this province.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, we have heard from the manuscript speech of the Hon'ble Minister about the policy and programme regarding industrial development of this province. So far as the question of development is concerned I wish to place certain points for the information of the House straightway. Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister what this Government has done to improve handloom industries and to afford facilities for marketing the products of cottage industry? There is dearth of cloth in this province and we are passing through a very hard time. Cloth is now the crying need of the country. If there was some attempt made by Government to improve handloom industries and to market all their products certainly the lot of the handloom industry would have been improved and wants of the people solved. I understand that the Government of India has supplied to all the provinces certain spinning mills and so far as my information goes Government of Bengal has got 6 such spinning mills. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what arrangement has been made to locate these 6 spinning mills with a view to utilising them for the betterment of the country? May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what has been done by him to amend the State Aid to Industries Act? This is a matter of vital importance. This House know that there will be an election on the 31st March next to elect 2 members to the Board of Industries. This Board, Sir, is only a figure show in the sense that it has nothing to do with regard to planning or

developing industries in Bengal. The main business of the Board is that members come and take their travelling allowance, sit tight and give sanction to certain grants on the recommendation of a Circle Officer from the remotest corner of the country. The Board should be abolished or it should be placed on a footing to be able to do something for the province by giving their guidance and assistance.

Sir, coming to the first 5-year industrial plan formulated by the first Minister of Industries, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister what has become of that plan, whether it is lost or it has been given a good-bye, or has the present Minister a better plan than the original one? Sir, I can say that—whatever might have been read out in the House from the manuscript essay by the Hon'ble Minister—there is no policy or programme for the development of industries in this country.

Next, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the Sericulture Branch of the Industries Department. If one looks to the budget he will find that a huge and enormous sum has been provided under this head not for development of sericulture or improvement of worms or for improvement in the condition of weavers but the whole amount has been provided for salary, honoraria, etc., of the staff. The commensurate benefit of this big expenditure is nil. I therefore ask the Hon'ble Minister to see whether he can cut down expenditure on sericulture by way of getting rid of the top-heavy administration. He must make arrangements for industrial development in that branch in such a way that people can get commensurate benefit in proportion to the expenditure.

Last of all I wish to say a few words about fisheries. This Department of Fisheries has done more harm than good to the people of this province. I simply cite one instance. Fish-rearing is the ideal before the department but what is the method of rearing. My friends will be surprised to know that in rainy season when the water currents come down from higher level fish fries which are very small are caught by a sort of net or cloth. As soon as they are brought out of the water 50 per cent. of them die instantly and 25 per cent. afterwards and only 25 per cent. remain for rearing in tanks. If this process was not adopted by the Department of Fisheries nature would have given us at least more than double of what we are getting now. So, I submit, Sir, that there is no planned policy for industrial development in Bengal.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to apologise to you for not being here while the motion standing in my name was called. My motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of utilising the surplus electric energy available from factories for developing industries in rural areas.

Sir, it is beyond controversy that if we have got to develop the rural areas of Bengal arrangements must be made for the supply of cheap electric energy. We know, Sir, big schemes are being talked of about harnessing the great river power that is available in this province for bringing about big electrical schemes. But we also know, Sir, that it is not possible to do so for various reasons within a reasonably short time. Shall we, therefore, look on helplessly? Shall we therefore neglect or even allow the little industries that there are in the rural areas to die down? You know, Sir, that in Bengal there are many people who not only earn their living by weaving but also provide one of the primary necessities of this province. But you know for want of any power they have got to depend upon handlooms. If electric energies could be made available to them, then they could double their produce and make an economic living out of it.

Sir, I will only refer to one case. You know, Sir, that in the Dacca district specially in Nurayanganj subdivision there are as many as 40,000 weavers owning handlooms in which they weave cloth of different kinds.

You also know, Sir, that in the Narayanganj subdivision the surplus electric energy available from the cotton mills can be very usefully utilised. If Government will utilise that surplus energy these weavers could possibly have weaving not by handlooms but by improved looms. You also know, Sir, that we will be able to avoid many of the industrial difficulties and the social evils of industrial life, if we can develop the home industries in rural areas. If electric energy is available, many people could have a little leisure in their own homesteads and they could make many of the necessary things for that locality, if not also for selling outside. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for this Government at once to tap this source which is available and make it available for developing the rural industries. I will not take any more time of the House, because it is an indulgence, Sir, that you have given me to emphasize this.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the development of industries. The Hon'ble Minister in his speech mentioned about a provision of Rs.27,54,000 under the development scheme, but I am sorry to find that no provision has been made for development of spinning and dyeing, for supplying yarn to our weavers whose pitiable plight for want of yarn is not altogether unknown to Government. They are facing difficulties in every step on their way to getting yarn according to their choice and market demand. The Textile Department force upon them some unsuitable yarn and dyed stuff for which they find no local market. In my considered opinion establishing a spinning mill and a dyeing factory is really a crying need of the country. I am sure the whole House will be one with me if I say that the need for the mill and the factory is far greater than development of sericulture in saving the lives of about 2 lakhs of Bengal weavers. We therefore recommend that a spinning mill with a dyeing factory be established without the least possible delay and the amount provided for.

As regards cottage industries separate allotment should be made for the development of cottage industries among the Muslim females. We need hardly stress that statecraft has only one aim to-day, which is the organisation of society on lines which will permit of no waste in human material and in which men and women will be made productive and serviceable. All that is palpable to us is its gross misdistribution in subsidy and patronage. There are about 29 industrial schools for women in Bengal of which three only are run by Muslims and the remaining twenty-six by non-Muslims. Practically nothing has been done by the Industry Department to promote cottage industries among the Muslim women. I am afraid that of the total amount spent by the Government in this direction not more than 5 per cent. is allotted for the industrial welfare of our women. This is really a sorry state of affairs and needs immediate mending and ending. Public revenues are to be spent in relation to the numerical strength of the communities.

I see from the post-war reconstruction programme that spinning mills with dyeing in Bengal have been included in the programme under the head "Co-operative Development of Cottage Industries". I do not quite understand why this item has been brought under "Co-operative". This must be done under the Industries Department. I find in the post-war reconstruction scheme that only about Rs. 16 lakhs has been provided for small spinning mills. I think this is most inadequate and nothing but a mere show. This is callousness towards the interests for development of rural industries. This scheme for the improvement of the country should be given effect to without eye-wash or white-wash.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say another thing about the development of industries in this country. Particularly I would mention that there is a scheme for hydro-electric installation at Barkat in Rangamati Hill Tracts.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you have finished.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: One minute please.

Mr. SPEAKER: No; I am sorry.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. F. STARK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall try to be brief. I want first of all to say a few words about fisheries which again seem to be in a neglected state. We spent years in this House I remember in persuading Government to set up a Directorate of Fisheries. That was done after I think three years of pressure. Now, Sir, I hear that the Director of Fisheries has left this province and has gone to the service of the Government of India, and I do not know if another Director of Fisheries has been appointed. But I see that during the past year the Department of Fisheries has a very poor record. In the development programme there was a sum of nearly Rs. 8 lakhs voted for the expansion of the department. Out of that sum only Rs. 75,000 was spent. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Rs. 8 lakhs and not 8 crores.) Now I see that the Department of Fisheries has done something on the subject of tank fisheries, but it is not in tank fisheries—I quite agree that tank fisheries are a good thing—that an inexhaustive source of wealth lies. It is in the river, estuaries, marine fisheries and all along the coast. What has the Department of Fisheries done for riverine, marine and estuarine fisheries? Nothing, so far as I can see. In particular, there is the question of development of the Sunderbans fisheries. There have been schemes drawn up I know by the Hon'ble Minister's Department—big, comprehensive, elaborate and ambitious schemes, but they have got no further. I would suggest to the Hon'ble Minister that he could do something to help the fishermen of Sunderbans if he would only improve transport facilities, improve the supply of ice, improve jetties, improve packing facilities. These are small things which can be done without any huge, elaborate, comprehensive scheme. If they were done, the fish supply from Sunderbans would be increased manifold.

Now, Sir, there is only one other word I want to say, and that is about the question of nationalisation. I would like to add the question of nationalisation to the long list which was so ably given to the House by my honourable friend Mr. Bimal Ghose of handicaps under which Industries are suffering at the present moment. It is impossible for enterprise to prosper while it is hanging under the threat of nationalisation, talk of nationalisation. Government wants nationalisation, because its resources are so small; it sees its only hope of balancing the budget by seizing the profits of Industries. In other words, what it wants is State capitalism; what it wants to do is to take the profits of Industries. On the other hand my honourable friend Mr. Jyoti Basu and other Labour members of this House want nationalisation in order to improve the lot of the workers. The two things, I would submit, are incompatible as is being proved with regard to the railway revenues. Moreover, it has been proved time and again that State enterprise means inefficiency and waste and that the profits which private enterprise can make the State is unable to make, because it is inefficient and because it is wasteful. What we need at the moment is expanding production, expanding industrial development, and these things we will not get unless private enterprise is allowed a free field without interference from the State.

I would add only one word and that is to refer to the danger of bureaucracy. That I would suggest is a very serious danger. I have heard so many complaints on the other side and this side of Government officers, talk of an army of Government officers, talk about their inefficiency and dishonesty, yet the same honourable members will put forward demands for nationalisation. They must know that nationalisation means

another army of officers, another army of Government forms, and the logical end of it is that nothing will be done without filling in Government forms.

Mr. KUBER CHAND HALDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of my friend Mr. Sukumar Dutta. The Government has made no provision in the present budget for the cottage industry of Bengal. The weavers of Bengal have been doomed for the mismanagement of supply of yarn to them, and the looms remain inactive for the major part of the year for want of yarn. The weavers of the villages are to go to the subdivisional headquarters for the permit of yarn. The Circle Officers who are in charge of the distribution of the yarn issue permits according to their whims and caprices. The weavers who require 20 counts of yarn are supplied with 40 counts, whereas the weavers who want 40 counts are supplied with 20 counts. The weavers who come from a distance of 10 to 20 miles are to go back without permit after incurring expenses as the Circle Officers are out on tour and they do not fix any date for issuing permits. There are some spinning organisations at Sodepur and other places run by the Congress, but they cannot thrive for want of Government co-operation because they are not getting sufficient cotton for spinning.

The handloom industry of Bengal is suffering much for want of sympathy of Government. The public are not getting cloth for the control, but if the handloom industry had improved the demand for cloth would have been reduced to a great extent.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that the poor shoemakers even cannot go on well with their business for want of yarn. The district of Murshidabad which is my constituency is famous for silk and brass industry; everyone knows that varieties of articles made of brass metal are produced at Khagra in Murshidabad. *Kansarus* of that locality are not getting sufficient brass metal for their work.

I, therefore, hope that Government will pay attention to the cottage industry of Bengal.

Mr. PURNA CHANDRA PRAMANIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ইনডাস্ট্রী সম্বন্ধে আমি কিছু আপনাদের কাছে বলতে ইচ্ছা করি। আমি পল্লীগ্রামে বাস করি—। পল্লীর কথা বধনই ভাবি, তখনই পল্লীবাসীর প্রত্যেকটি পরিবারের বাধা-বেদনাদ্বারা চিত্রিত আমার চোখের সামনে ভেসে ওঠে। মনে হয় আমিও সেই পরিবারের একজন, তাহাদের অবনতির জন্য আমিই দায়ী। তাই এই গ্রাম-বাসীদের দুখের কথা আয়োচনা করতে গেলে প্রথমেই মনে উঠে বাংলার কৃষক ও শিল্পীদের দুঃবস্থা। কৃষক ও শিল্পীদের দুঃবস্থা। দেশে কৰ্ম্মকার, কৃষিকার, তন্তুকার, হালাকার প্রভৃতি শিল্পীদের শিল্পবাহিনীর একরূপ দোশ দেখতে বসেছে। বাংলার কৃষককুল নিরস, বস্ত্রহীন ও ঋণভারে ভুজ্জ্বলিত, দুঃখময়। কৃষি ও শিল্পকার্খার পদ্ধতিগত বসায়ানা মূলধন যখন বা দরকার হয় তারা তা পায় না। কাজেই বাধা হয়ে ধনী মহাজনদের কাছ থেকে উদ্ধার সূত্রে টাকা ধার করতে হয় এবং তাদের আর দুঃখ দুঃখশার সমীা থাকে না। গ্রামের পাড়ে পনের আনা দোকান কৃষি ও শিল্পকার্খার। গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ থেকে ব্যাক্ক খুলে তাদের সাহায্য করা দরকার। নইলে সবই বরবাদ—কোন শিল্পই কার্খারী হবে না। যদি সত্যিকারের শিল্পই প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে হয়, তবে এত বাধা না করলে কোন শিল্পই উন্নতি লাভ করতে পারবে না।

পারিপার্শ্বিকের প্রয়োজন পূরণের অনুসন্ধান ও শুল্কবিহীন জাপ্রাপ্ত হলেই বেকার সমস্যা জাতির হৃৎ ধরে ধীরে ধীরে অদৃশিত হয়ে যাবে। তাই আজ বাংলার নরনারীর জীবনে নব-চেতনা জাপ্রাপ্ত করে তুলবার জন্য কুটীর শিল্প প্রবর্তন করতে হবে এবং সকলকে সেবার মনো দীক্ষিত করতে চেষ্টা করতে হবে। সূচ সমৃদ্ধি জলজনের একমাত্র পথ এই গৃহশিল্প যাতে পল্লীগ্রামে প্রবর্তিত হয়ে নরনারী নির্ভরশীল হয়ে সকলের প্রয়োজনবীর অর্থ উৎপাদনের উপায় করে দিতে পারে, তার জন্য এই দিকে গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি দিতে বাকি। চালের কল, আটার কল, তেলের কল, চিনির কল, সূতার কল, গ্লাস বোয়াল, বোতামের কল, টেমপের, হুটি-বিকুট তৈরীর কল প্রভৃতি রকমের ছোট বড় মেশিনারী খরিদ করে জেলায় জেলায় প্রতিষ্ঠা করা গভর্ণমেন্টের দরকার এবং গভর্ণমেন্টের তরফ থেকে সেগুলি তত্ত্বাবধান করা উচিত। এতদ্ব্যতীত সর্বসাধারণের উপকারের আর কোন উপায় দেখতে পাই না।

এইরূপ অনুসন্ধানের সেরক দ্বারা আজ অনেকেই উন্নতির পথে জঙ্গলের হবার সুবর্ণ সুযোগ পাবেন। দারিদ্র্য মোচনের অপর মন্ত্র এই সেবা দ্বাৰাও বড়সস্ত্র লব্ধে উপাধিষ্টিত হবে, ততই দেশের কল্যাণ। পণ্ডিতের বস্ত্রের বাজারে শিল্প বিভাগে যে টাকা ব্যয় ও ব্যয় করা হয়েছে, তার কোনই সাফল্য দেখতে পাই না, সবই ব্যর্থ হয়েছে।

এরপর জাহাঙ্গীরের নদীয়া জেলায় কথা কিছু বলব। নদীয়া জেলায় কৃষকদের দারিদ্র্য শিল্প কার্যে নিজেদের চেতনার খুবই উন্নতি হয়েছে। নদীয়া জেলার কৃষ্টিয়া বোখারী শিল্পের কাপড় বাজারে পৌঁছাব। তার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তদুৎসাহ ও কার্যকর উন্নতি লাভ করেছে—বিশেষতঃ শান্তিপুত্রের তাঁতের কাপড় উল্লেখযোগ্য। কিন্তু তাদের অন্তরায় দাঁড়িয়েছে সূতার অভাব। কলকাতার কৃষ্ণা সোনারকার তাঁত-শিল্পের অবস্থা অন্যান্য সল্লাই হয়ে পড়েছে। সম্ভ্রুতি সূতার ব্যাপার নিয়ে শান্তিপুত্রের তদুৎসাহ ও কার্যকরদের বিশদ উপস্থিতি হয়েছে। সূতার জন্য তারা জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের কাছে দরখাস্ত করে এবং জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট সাহেব উহা তদন্ত করতে যান। তদন্তের সময় তদুৎসাহ ও কার্যকরদের সাথে তাঁর কিছু কথা-বাক্যটি ও কল্যাণ হয়, সেজন্য তাদের কৌজমারীতে সোপান করা হয়েছে এবং তাদের নামে নামের তালিকা। শিল্পকার্যের দুরের কথা এখন হঠাৎ তাদের কার্যবাস ভোগ করতে হবে। আমি এ সম্বন্ধে দায়বদ্ধ মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, I am glad to see that the House has evinced a keen desire to hear about the Fisheries Department, its policy and its programme. Sir, I must tell the House that it is the Auditor-General of India who sanctions the opening of new heads of accounts. We tried to have a new head opened this year but they did not agree to it, but for future we will try and it is quite natural and reasonable that a demand of nearly 13 lakhs 24 thousand should be put separately under a separate head.

Sir, before replying to the specific cut motions I will state briefly the policy and programme of this department. Of the sea estuary and inland fisheries the Government is at present concentrating on inland fishery. About sea fisheries it can be said that Government has done nothing yet. About estuary fisheries we have started a pilot scheme, viz., the Sunderbans pilot scheme. It requires several crafts to run that scheme. We have not as yet got all these crafts. We have not got the main boat which we have ordered. So, we are not in a position to start that.

Next to that, Sir, is the inland fishery. We are concentrating on it. Government is trying to have a legislation passed this session which will empower Government to prescribe closed season and to stop wanton destruction of fish, spawns and fries. Sir, we have observed that in Bengal there was only a small amount of spawn-catching before, but during the last few years spawn-catching has spread so far round the country that it has gone up to the upper reaches of the river. This should be regularised. In fact too much emphasis was laid on pisciculture and I think it was done to the detriment of river-fish. Spawns were caught in rivers to an extent which was not proper. Government is trying to co-relate pisciculture in tanks with pisciculture in rivers and *banks* in the country. Government has taken up 16 districts where it will have tanks for the purpose of nursery ponds. We will put spawns there and we will supply them to the people at cheaper rate to fill their tanks with.

Government is trying to do some rehabilitation work among the fishermen by supplying them yarn, coal-tar, etc. This I must say, we are not able to do to the extent we desire to do simply for the short supply of yarn.

Mr. Stark has said that the Director of Fisheries has left and there is at present no arrangement, but I must tell him that there is a man very experienced in the department who is acting in his place as the Director at present. Though he is not a technical man he is quite able to conduct the department ably. Sir, I must say that it is not the technical man which we must of necessity possess because a technical man may possess some knowledge which he may not be able to translate into action.

With these words I take my seat.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: With five minutes' time at my disposal I cannot reply to all the points that have been raised by my friends opposite. My friend Mr. Dutta lamented over cottage industry. I can tell him this, as I gave a reply here before, it was the technical opinion of the department, but after taking over charge I have decided to convene a conference of those who believe not only in *khadi* but believe in hand-spinning and hand-weaving and some representatives of the Legislature and we will try to see if it is possible to move in this matter effectively and actively.

My friend Mr. Ghose raised a question. He simply abused us. I know it is the duty of the Opposition to abuse the Ministry and the people who support the Ministry. I am not giving him anything back just now. I am asking him to spend a little bit of his time to persuade the Tramway workers and all those gentlemen engaged in seeking holes and just trying to see that strikes spread all over the country and create a sort of confusion and chaos to stop their activities and not to abuse the Ministry. My friend Mr. Jyoti Basu—he is not here at the moment—and his Communist party are out to create chaos and mischief. Therefore, I would ask Mr. Ghose—please advise them to behave properly, please see that strikes do not occur in this country and industry and trade thrive.

Then my friends Mr. Gupta and Mr. Khondkar have said about State aid to industries. The Industries Act will be revised and will be remodelled according to the conditions of time and I hope Government will see that the energy that my friend Mr. J. C. Gupta mentioned be utilised in developing cottage industries also. Of course, Government has laid down a plan so far as electric energy is concerned. Not only thermal stations but hydro-electric stations will be established, but it is a question of time and a question of finance. Already examination is being done by a Special Officer of the department and my friend knows that he is acting very vigorously and we hope we will be able to announce the policy of the Government within a very short time.

Well, these are the general things that I had to say. I am giving this assurance that at the present moment, whether it is the silk industry or any other industry, it is a question of time. I take it that during the last few years the Industries Department has not made very great headway, but the time has come, and if conditions and things settle down, and with greater powers in the hand of Government—we have no hold on bigger industries, only minor industries are in our hand, we will be able to effect improvement.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: What about handloom industries? I take it that you accept my suggestions.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: With greater powers Government will be able to handle all the industries in a proper manner. I hope what I have said will satisfy the honourable members of the Opposition. With these remarks I oppose all the cut motions moved in the House and commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: The Department should be more industrialised.

The motion of Mr. Shyamapada Bhattacharjee that the demand of Rs.1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Prafulla Ranjan Sarker that the demand of Rs.1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs.100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Hem Chandra Nasker that the demand of Rs. 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose that the demand of Rs. 1,69,08,000 for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

* The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed that a sum of Rs. 1,69,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "43—Industries—Industries" and "72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development" was then put and agreed to.

Enquiry by the Leader of the Opposition regarding present condition of Calcutta.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Chief Minister whether he is in a position to make a statement giving a brief survey of the condition of Calcutta at present. Before he makes that statement, Sir, I would like to make a few observations on the situation. Yesterday unfortunately I was not present in the House when the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a statement, because I was visiting by myself and also with the Secretary of the Provincial Congress Committee, areas which were disturbed. I am reluctant to criticize the Police at this stage, but I did not find police very active at that time. After that I had the advantage of going over the same areas with the Hon'ble Chief Minister; at that time I found the police was more effective. Last night in the areas wherever there have been curfew, the situation was quite under control; but since this morning, I understand, Sir, there have been sixteen incidents. I, of course, speak subject to correction. I do not want to go into the details of these incidents, perhaps it would be better not to. But I want to make a few suggestions about certain points which occur to me.

First, Sir, about the telephone. My friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Assembly Party, drew the attention of the Chief Minister to the fact that whenever public wants the telephone most, the telephone goes out of action. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, I understood, explained that the telephone was very much overloaded. Whatever may be the value of the explanation, it is almost like saying that whenever a house is on fire, the fire brigade goes out of action. It is no use paying for telephone if the public cannot have telephone connection in times of difficulties. I wish the Bengal Government would take up this matter with the authorities of the telephone whoever they be at the present time.

The next is about radio. I was informed, Sir, that curfew was declared over half a dozen thanas, but at about 9-30 last night the news given by the Calcutta Radio was that curfew was imposed only in two thanas. Even this morning I am informed, here I do not speak from personal knowledge, but I am informed reliably that about 9-30 in the morning, the Calcutta Radio repeated that false news. My another charge against the radio is that it always minimises incidents. I can understand a complete black-out of incidents relating to communal troubles—I do not agree with that but I can understand that, but merely saying that there was one incident and that there was no trouble in Calcutta, completely

misleads the people, and the people at present have no faith and do not believe what the radio says. A time may come when the Chief Minister or the Government of Bengal would like to give news, correct news, for the purpose of informing the public, but it would be found that nobody will believe in the information given through the radio. This is also a matter which the Bengal Government should take up.

During my tour yesterday I found, Sir, that the situation in the schools and colleges, particularly institutions and hostels for girls, was most lamentable. They could not get escort; all the girls were frightened, they could not contact the guardians because of the telephone, and they could not get any police escort from thanas to send girls to their respective homes. I hope instructions will be given to thana officers to supply escort to all institutions for girls and children. I am not thinking at present of college boys. All institutions where girls and children read should have our first attention.

Then I would suggest the extension of curfew to all the areas where incidents have already taken place, and lastly, Sir, I would suggest to the Hon'ble Chief Minister to contact the Military. I know, I had private talks with the Chief Minister, he is very optimistic. He thinks that the situation is almost under control and the situation will improve. I regret I am not sure that it has. Therefore I would suggest that he should contact the Military and, if necessary, call the Military at this stage. It is no use waiting for a further deterioration of the situation and loss of human life and property; it is no use being complacent that only ten, or say twenty lives have been lost. It may be there will be a general flare up. I do not want to be panicky, but the situation may be completely out of control. It is much better to bring the Military at this stage when the situation is within control.

That is all, Sir, I wanted to say. I would also suggest if it is possible for the Chief Minister to have a sort of Standing Committee of the House to be in close contact with the Government to advise the Government and to be a sort of liaison between the Government and the people.

Sir, I have made all these suggestions privately to him and I would also like a reply on these points as far as possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the honourable Leader of the Opposition has raised some very valuable points which I deem it necessary that I should express my views upon. I will take them one by one as he has stated them.

Sir, there have been a number of incidents reported up till now—16 in number. Most of them have been of a minor nature and these 16 incidents did not all occur today, some of them have reference to incidents that occurred yesterday but which were not reported.

Sir, in pursuance of what I stated yesterday, viz., that we propose to take very serious steps and drastic steps whenever an incident occurs, I agree with what the Leader of the Opposition has stated, viz., that where incidents occur, curfew should be placed there so that the people should realise that the public do not view with equanimity the light-heartedness with which they are conducting themselves. Sir, the curfew has been imposed on two new places—Entally and Beliaghata—in addition to the six places which were under curfew yesterday and where we do not propose to lift the curfew until the situation eases. If, in the meantime, other reports reach us of incidents taking place elsewhere, curfew will be put down in those places as well.

As regards the telephone, I fear, Sir, that my appraisal of the situation happens to be correct and that if the honourable Leader of the Opposition does not agree with me, I cannot help it. His simile is rather apt but a little bit misleading. It is not correct to say that the loading

of the telephone system at about the time of the occurrence is equivalent to the fire brigade going out of action when a house is on fire. The correct simile would be that where the whole city is on fire or there are a large number of fires, a fire brigade meant to deal with sporadic fires cannot deal with all the fires at one and the same time. In any event, I shall convey the feelings of this House to the Hon'ble Member in charge of Telephones, Government of India. I do not think, Sir, that we in this province should be held responsible for how the telephone behaves.

As regards news on the All-India Radio, steps are being taken to rectify those errors. I do not know exactly how those errors have crept in and we would like very much to be able to give the correct version of the news from the Calcutta Radio. Unfortunately, news can only be relayed from the All-India Radio at Delhi and we are trying our best to get the necessary permission to relay from here.

Sir, I have taken into account the views of the honourable Leader of the Opposition regarding escort being provided to girls' institutions in particular so that they may be removed from there to safer places. I feel, Sir, that although removal of this kind may on occasions lead to unjustifiable panic, still it would be advisable to take steps betimes. The position regarding the police force is such that the Commissioner of Police is unable to find escorts for this task. I am having a survey made of the institutions that should be catered for and a programme laid down so that whenever an incident occurs, the requisite cars or lorries and officers could be available to remove the girls from those institutions and if the police force now available is not sufficient, then I consider this matter important enough to justify an addition to the police force for this purpose.

As regards the Military, Sir, they are standing by and if the situation deteriorates, certainly they will be on the scene. I feel, however, Sir, that if the situation gets better, their presence on the scene may, instead of allaying panic, give rise to further panic as persons may think that the situation is deteriorating and that is the reason why the Military have been brought on the scene. This is so far as the presence of the Military is concerned. It has got to be judged just as per necessity and I am sure there will be no occasion, at least on this occasion, for anybody to say that the Military were not brought in in right time.

Sir, I am considering the suggestion made by the honourable Leader of the Opposition for having a Standing Committee of the House. I think I would appreciate very much the views from all sides of the House on the general situation and any advice that they can tender to Government. I consider the feasibility of this and perhaps we shall be able to get together a Consultative Committee which I would ask to meet me from time to time and which might meet whenever any member of that committee might deem it advisable to call the committee for the purpose of consultation.

Sir, I am grateful to the honourable Leader of the Opposition for having given me an opportunity to place these facts before the House. I hope that the situation will get better. We do find more people on the streets now and there is more movement and if this continues for some time long, I hope that the situation will get back to normal. Government are not by any means relaxing their vigilance and I will warn such persons who may be mischievously inclined and I inform the House that we are going to take very serious notice and we are taking now serious notice of incidents. As I said in my statement yesterday, we may have to put on curfew, we may have to make searches, we may have to make arrests, we may have to shoot, we may have to take drastic action which by no means will be palatable to those who are indulging in this game. I am glad indeed to be reassured from all parts of the House that any drastic action that I may have to take will have their full support.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 25,65,000 be granted for expenditure during the year 1947-48 under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona".

The Cinchona Department is concerned with the cultivation of cinchona and production of quinine salts and cinchona febrifuge. Perhaps the House is aware that India is not self-sufficient in quinine supply and had to depend so long on foreign imports mainly from Java. The annual output of quinine in Bengal in pre-war years was 45,000 to 50,000 lbs. During the current year it is expected to reach 70,000 lbs. against the normal requirement of the Province which is estimated to be 90,000 lbs. a year on the basis of actual consumption in pre-war years. The Cinchona Department while meeting one of the essential needs of the public is run strictly on business lines. This would be clear from the fact that the Cinchona Directorate earned a profit of Rs. 7·8 lakhs in 1942-43, of Rs. 31·6 lakhs in 1943-44 and of Rs. 13·5 lakhs in 1944-45.

I may say for the information of the House that with a view to making India reasonably self-sufficient in quinine production this Government, in co-operation with the Government of Madras, adopted in 1938, a programme of gradual expansion of cinchona plantation. With this end in view two new plantations were started by this Government, one at Rongo in 1938 and another at Latpanchor in 1944. The Rongo plantation has been placed on a permanent footing but the Latpanchor plantation is still in an experimental stage. If the experiment proves successful Government expect to establish a permanent plantation there. The total area at present under cinchona cultivation is 10,150 acres as detailed below:—

				Acres.
(1) Mungpoo	...	...	...	5,000
(2) Munsong	...	...	...	4,000
(3) Rongo	..	...	...	1,000
(4) Latpanchor	.	...	...	150
Total				10,150

Government had under contemplation other schemes for further expansion of the plantation but on account of difficulties of securing labour and materials due to war conditions it was not possible so long to make any appreciable progress. I should state here that Government do not consider any change in their quinine production policy advisable in spite of there being several synthetic substitutes. Quinine is a basic drug of national importance, and if the experience of war years is any guide, it would be most undesirable for us to remain dependent on substitutes of foreign origin.

Government have, therefore, sanctioned during the current financial year a Development Scheme for increased production of quinine by means other than the expansion of the plantations, which aims at an ultimate annual output of a hundred thousand pounds. The scheme contemplates improvements in following main directions:—

- (a) Reorganisation of the Department including training of certain departmental officers abroad;

- (b) Research on plantation technique to improve the methods of cultivation;
- (c) Research on manufacturing technique for increasing the efficiency of extraction; and
- (d) Purchase of some capital equipment for economy in production cost.

Government have also sanctioned during the current year a scheme for the manufacture of two lakhs quinine bi-hydrochloride ampoules in injectable form for distribution to hospitals and dispensaries, medical practitioners, and through the Retail Distributing Agents of quinine to the public.

Mr. MONORANJAN DHAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 25,65,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the absence of any plan for production and defective and corrupt system of supply and distribution of quinine and other products of cinchona.

Sir, I do not propose to make any speech against the grim background of what is happening outside. I feel it out of tune to take part in this discussion. I wish only to impress upon the Hon'ble Minister the enormity of the problem involving the discrimination and devitalisation of countless people. Sir, 4 lakhs of people are dying of malaria every year in Bengal. Government is not taking any steps to extend the cinchona plantation. They should see that quinine is produced in greater quantity towards attaining self-sufficiency.

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Sir, I oppose the cut motion.

The motion of Mr. Monoranjana Dhar that the demand of Rs. 25,65,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain that a sum of Rs. 25,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-25 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Friday, the 28th March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 28th March, 1947, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (The Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 185 members.

Use of "Sree" and not "Mr." before the names of certain Members.

MR. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: একটা অধিকারপদ প্রাপ্ত ব্যাপার; আমরা এই Assemblyতে যারা কাজকার বক্তৃতা করি, আমরা চাইব। যে আমাদের নামের পূর্বে 'রিটার' (Mr.) শব্দটি ব্যবহার হয়। সুতরাং আমরা স্বীকার বহোদয়ের কাছে অনুমোদন করছি তিনি অনুগ্রহ করে এই ব্যবস্থা করুন যেন আমাদের নামের পূর্বে 'রিটার' (Mr.) শব্দ ব্যবহার না হয়ে "শ্রী" শব্দ ব্যবহার করা হয়।

Situation in Calcutta.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the business of the House is taken up, in the absence of my leader I want to make a statement on behalf of the Congress Assembly Party. I find, Sir, the Chief and Home Minister is not present, but fortunately for us two of the Ministers are present, and I shall make my statement in the presence of these two Ministers. The communal situation, Sir, in spite of the assurances given by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister—

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, if your statement refers to the communal situation in the city I think it is better that it should be made in the presence of the Chief Minister—

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: But he is not present in the House and I cannot help it.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not get any previous intimation that you would raise it; otherwise I would have asked him to be present in the House.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The matter is so urgent that I wish the presence of the Chief Minister in the House. Will you please send for the Chief Minister immediately?

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I might inform you, Sir, that when our Leader came to this Assembly Building he got an immediate telephonic message that mob attack was going on in the European Asylum Lane and that his own house was in danger. So we want the Chief Minister in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called for the Chief Minister, but in the meantime let us go on with the business of the House.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, Sir. Before the business commences I want to make a statement in the presence of the Chief Minister. After that if you think that business should commence, it may be done.

MR. SPEAKER: But in the meantime let us go on with the business.

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I hope you will appreciate the abnormality and urgency of the situation in which it would be unreal and

impossible to carry on the business of the House pending a decision on the point raised by my Deputy Leader. I suggest that it would be very much better if you could get the Chief Minister here now.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already sent for the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. Usually intimation for making a statement by a leader of a party is given to the Chair beforehand and the Chair makes arrangement so that the leader of the other party or the Leader of the House may be present.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: There was hardly any time for us to give previous intimation.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Speaker could have been informed of it earlier.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJEE: Sir, the situation developed so suddenly that we had no opportunity to inform you beforehand.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, our leader's house has just now been attacked and as a matter of fact we went to the Chief Minister's room but he was not there. So we take this opportunity to bring the matter to his notice.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, the matter relating to the communal situation is growing so very urgent and serious that before any business is taken up, the present communal affair should first be settled. Unless and until it is settled we cannot take part in the proceedings of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a different matter altogether, but the settlement of the communal question is not possible within this House.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, the communal trouble has been going on and an impression is gradually gaining ground that this Government is not going to do anything in the matter. No military has yet been called out, and it seems that it will not be called out. Unless and until the military is called out, we will not take part in the proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this your attitude then that you will not take part in the proceedings?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I shall let you know, Sir, what would be the attitude of our party after the Chief Minister arrives and after I make my statement.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: In the meantime let the Hon'ble Minister move his motion.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Is it your ruling, Sir, that the business of the House will be held up until the statement is made?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will certainly move the motion; but because the Opposition wants to make a statement, I want that it should be made when the proper person to give a reply is present in the House. There are, of course, the two Ministers present here, but none of them is in charge of the Home Department. Therefore I think the statement should be made when the Chief Minister comes. In the meantime, the House can go on with its normal business.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Sir, when our house is on fire, we cannot get on with this business.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House are discussing the matter together.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: As you know, Sir, my leader's house has been attacked, and this is the advice given to me by my leader. He has asked me to make a statement and get a reply from the Chief Minister.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, they are closetted together and discussing the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed that the Leader of the Opposition is discussing the matter with the Leader of the House.

Mr. A. T. MAZHARUL HAQUE: Sir, what my friends opposite have stated is not perhaps correct. It is quite in the fitness of things that such a statement would give provocation to one side to attack the other, and therefore aggravate the riot. So no distinction should be made between a particular person and another.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, I have just received information that the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition are discussing the matter together. So if any statement is to be made, it may be made later on and in the meantime the Hon'ble Minister can move his motion.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

63—Extraordinary Charges in India.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.8,80,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India".

(At this stage motion No. 46 was called.)

Situation in Calcutta.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Just now I am told, Sir, that the leaders are in consultation with the Chief Minister. You have sent for the Chief Minister, Sir, and let us wait till the arrival of the Chief Minister—(At this stage the Chief Minister entered into the House)—Sir, the Chief Minister has come and I will now make the statement.

Sir, before the business of the House commences, it is my duty to make a statement on the communal situation in the city. We have brought to the notice of Government the communal situation during the last two days, and we have been assured that drastic steps will be taken to meet with the situation. But the situation has deteriorated in the whole of Central Calcutta. In Circular Road, Maniktala, Rajabazar, Surendra Banerjee Road, Bagmari and other places there have been postings of a large number of police force, but even in spite of all that the police have not taken any step to disperse the rioters. I am informed that in the Campbell Hospital up to this time today 45 cases have been admitted and eight have died. In the Medical College Hospital there are eight serious cases with gaping wounds. I am just now told that one 3A-bus has been attacked near Raja Bazar and set fire to and this has been done in the presence of the police; the police have not taken any steps to disperse the mob or to arrest the ring-leaders. Then I am told that in that locality about 700 or 800 persons have assembled and attacked any and every passerby of one particular community. Near Marcus Square I am told that last evening after the curfew had set in many people of one particular community had assembled at a particular place without being arrested by the police. There are also other reports which I have received and which really go to show that though an assurance was given by Government that drastic steps would be taken, no steps have, as a matter

of fact, been taken to put a stop to hooliganism. I am just now told that in the locality in which my leader lives—I mean the European Asylum Lane—his house has been attacked by a large number of hooligans. In Bagmari a “Ganji” factory has been set fire to. Therefore it seems, Sir, that in spite of the verbal assurance given by Government that drastic steps would be taken, Government have not taken any steps to implement that assurance. In this state of things I feel that it is useless to take part in the discussions of this House while there is fire outside. Sir, there is fire outside and Government is not taking any step to extinguish that fire. We are idly sitting here practically in the midst of fire. In view of these circumstances, Sir, I do not think we can take part in the discussions of this House unless we are assured by Government that they will take effective steps to stop the riot. That assurance has no value unless Government immediately take steps and extinguish the fire that is raging outside. Sir, we do not think that we can take part in the discussions in the House unless something effective is going to be done to quell the riot.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am not prepared either to admit or to deny the incidents to which the honourable member has referred. It is a great pity if the situation has deteriorated, but the report which I received up to 1-30 p.m. was not such as to give rise to any such apprehension. The records up to 1-30 p.m. show that nine stray incidents have been reported to have occurred in North Calcutta. The preceding night passed off quietly. In the early hours of the morning there was a minor case of arson in which a bullock cart loaded with straw was set on fire. Later in the north part of the city the bus service stopped as a result of some stone-throwing. In today's incidents nine persons have been injured and one dead body was found in one locality. Ten persons were arrested on the spot. Otherwise life in the city appeared to be normal, and tension in other affected areas appeared to be easier. The curfew order will continue in force, but the curfew is being modified to this extent that instead of being for fourteen hours it will be for eleven and a half hours from 7 p.m. till 6-30 a.m.

Now, Sir, this was the state of affairs up to 1-30 p.m. From the statement made by the honourable member it would appear that the situation has deteriorated in certain areas. I am aware of the disturbance around the house of the honourable Leader of the Opposition. It appears that a rickshaw puller of one particular community was stabbed near what is called Joragirja in Lower Circular Road and thereafter there was a considerable amount of commotion in that area from the side of the community of which the rickshaw puller was a member. Unfortunately this is exactly what is actually taking place. Some person bereft of sanity comes up and assaults a person of the other community thinking that he has done a great and wonderful service for the cause, and this leads to retaliation and to commotion which after some time subsides. We have telephoned to that area and found that that area has now quietened down. Sporadic incidents like these occur. On the whole the situation is not worse today than yesterday, although these sporadic incidents have given rise to commotion. I am going now round the city with the honourable the Leader of the Opposition to see the position for ourselves and to see to what extent the police are alive. It becomes very very difficult for us sitting here to be able to say whether the police have acted in a satisfactory manner or not. This was a complaint on the last occasion and complaints from both the communities are pouring in that the police are not acting in the manner in which they should and are not taking drastic steps. We have communicated to the police, to the officials, to the lower ranks that they must take drastic steps. If there has been again a demoralisation in them which prevents them from taking drastic steps, this is unfortunate. Instructions will again be issued to them that they must not allow things to deteriorate and if in any area incidents occur and action is not taken at once in the form of arrests and deterrent action, then we shall call the local police responsible to task. I have made a check

of the action that has been taken and I may inform the House that in almost every instance immediately thereafter when the police have arrived, they have arrested people in the areas round about and have taken such action as was warranted by the situation as they found. I cannot say more than this except that Government is most anxious to see that this finishes as soon as possible. I believe that the members of the public and the members of all parties and all sections of the House and all organisations are most anxious that this should be stopped. Why there are some people carrying this on is rather difficult to find. In two instances perhaps this is nothing else than sheer hooliganism and it is only the lowest elements in Calcutta that are responsible for these acts. This would mean that certainly drastic action, as I have stated so often, is called for and I feel really sorry if it is a fact that the police in spite of our instructions to them, are not behaving as they ought to do. As I have said, Sir, I am going round the town with the Leader of the Opposition and I hope that results thereafter will show improvement.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir.—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think any discussion should take place.

Mr. BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: We have seen many things and we know of many incidents. We are coming from those places.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is impossible to refer to all the incidents.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House has just assured the House that he is going round with the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is impossible to refer to all the incidents which have been reported to me but some incidents have been reported which occurred in the presence of the police and the police did not take any steps. I shall refer to those incidents and I shall make over this paper to the Chief Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't you think that this paper should be handed over to the Chief Minister so that he may make enquiry into the matter. I think that is better.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Before I hand it over to the Chief Minister I would like to —

Mr. SPEAKER: If it refers to the general welfare, you should not do it in public. You may hand it over to the Leader of the House so that he may take action on that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In the Dharamtalla Street, in Chandni, things were going on for the last three days and we want to know how many arrests have been made, how many searches have been made. Although such things have been going on for the last three days no arrests have been made.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please hand over one copy to the Chief Minister and another copy to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: If Government are serious, they can stop the hooligans within a day. They are not at all serious. We challenge them.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We have not got that influence over the hooligans which you possess.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Arrest the hooligans. You all know them.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The Chief Whip of our party wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Police but the Commissioner of Police has not taken any steps. This is a very serious matter. (Shouts from the Government benches.) This matter, Sir, the opposite side takes very lightly and is laughing over the matter. It is impossible to take part in the discussion.

(Cries of "No", "no" from Government benches.)

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Munindra Bhattacharjee was coming and in his presence somebody was stabbed. The police were there but they did not take any action.

Mr. SPEAKER: After the statement of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the reply made by the Leader of the House, I do not think any discussion should take place on this matter.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, with the permission of my Deputy Leader I have to add and remind you that yesterday the honourable Leader of the Opposition had suggested that it was urgent and essential that the Army should be brought out, but, Sir, that suggestion of the honourable Leader of the Opposition has not been taken. If they had done that, there would have been no deterioration of the situation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat? After giving full assurance the Hon'ble Leader of the House has gone out with the Leader of the Opposition. That is perhaps the best arrangement they have made with regard to this matter. Let us go on with today's business.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It seems to me that when some statements were made by members of our party, members of the Government side did not take the matter seriously.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I object to that.

Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: We object to that. We are no less anxious than the Opposition members to restore peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there was any misunderstanding about the attitude of the honourable members of the Government side, I think the statements now made by the members from that side will satisfy you.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I may explain the position. When one member of the Opposition said that if the Government want it, they can stop it in a day. In reply the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that we have not got that kind of control over the hooligans as the members of the Opposition and this joke—this rebuff—was enjoyed by the members.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Is this time for joking? Does he not know where the hooligans live? The other day near the Science College—I heard from the Lecturers there—hooligans with drawn swords were not being arrested. No less a person than a Lecturer of the Science College told me that and I, on my own responsibility, state this. (Uproar.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, we are not in a position to take part in the discussion. We shall see whether the Government implement the assurance, whether the Government immediately take the help of the military in checking the disturbance that has been going on. Unless they do that, we are not going to take part in the discussion, we refuse to take part in the discussion of the House.

(As the members of the Opposition walked out of the chamber, members from the Government side cried out "Shame", "shame".)

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for 10 minutes.

(Accordingly the House was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: May I have your permission to have 2 minutes? Sir, I was not in the House when the Deputy Leader of the Congress Assembly Party made a statement. Though I was not in the House I share the feeling of the members on this side of the House. I speak, Sir, under the stress of emotion because the locality in which I live has been the target of attack just about an hour ago, but I do not want to take any step which will further deteriorate the situation. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Government Benches.) I do not want our action to be taken advantage of by anti-social and hooligan element ("Hear, hear"). At the request of my honourable friend, the Finance Minister we have decided to participate in the discussions (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Government Benches) as far as it is possible for us in the present circumstances and we shall wait till tomorrow to see what steps Government takes to put hooliganism under control.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very glad that the members of the Opposition have decided to participate in the proceedings of the House today in the normal way; otherwise it would have a very bad effect on the general public and I hope that in the interest of the city nothing about the previous decision of the Opposition should go to the Press excepting the statement of the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the reply of the Hon'ble Leader of the House.

I hope the Press has taken note of it that nothing with regard to the decision of the Opposition will be published.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: But, Sir, I think my statement should go to the Press.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: That will be misunderstood.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is not for me to say what should or what should not be done, but the fact is if the statement of the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition goes to the Press two facts will appear which it would be better not to be published. One is that the Opposition considered it important enough to walk out and it might give rise to the impression as if the Hindus and Muslims and their leaders started fighting with each other. That would be very unfortunate. Secondly, Sir, the incidents which occurred in Komeda Bagan Lane and down that area had nothing whatsoever to do with any attack on the house of the Leader of the Opposition, but it might be misinterpreted in certain quarters to be as such. This is a very important factor because I remember what happened on the last occasion. Sir, the house of the Leader of the Opposition is safe as ever and nobody would dream of the house being attacked, but it might be, as I have already said, misinterpreted in certain quarters as such and might inflame some people. So I would rather suggest—if the Leader of the Opposition would agree—that the whole episode from the time of the walking out of the Opposition till their return and up till now might be blacked out and not given publicity at all.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, it is very difficult for me to say anything because I was not in the House. I understood the Speaker to say that the speeches of the Deputy Leader of our party would be published.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is with regard to the first statement of the Deputy Leader and the reply thereto of the Hon'ble Leader of the House and not the subsequent statement.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, I believe in the first part of his speech the Deputy Leader did say that our party was not going to participate in the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not in the first part.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I stand corrected. In that case I agree with the Hon'ble Leader of the House. (Cries of "Hear", "hear" from the Government Benches.)

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

63—Extraordinary charges in India.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the unnecessary maintenance of the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA MAHANTY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about mismanagement, top heavy administration, inefficiency, corruption, robbery and jobbery in the Civil Supplies Department and about the desirability of abolishing this department altogether.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA RAY BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the desirability of continuing the system of control any further.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards cut motion No. 39-390, it will come under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading". That may be suitably moved under that head.

Mr. A. W. TAYLOR: I propose to speak on my motion later on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut motion No. 26 which stands in the name of Mr. Jogendra Chandra Das under the head "85A—Capital outlay, etc.," will go under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" because I understand it is administratively under that head. I would now call upon Mr. Jogendra Chandra Das to move the cut motion No. 26.

Mr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the corruption in the Civil Supplies Department and Government's failure to check it.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH ROY : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়, সিভিল সাপ্লাই ডিপার্টমেন্ট সম্বন্ধে আমি দু'একটা কথা বলতে চাই। প্রজাতন্ত্রের রাষ্ট্রনীতির গোড়ার কথা কি—সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের অত্যন্তের পক্ষে সোচ্চ এই বাকের সাংকীর্ষ্য ও যথার্থতা দেশের সর্বসাধারণের অন্তর হইতে সম্পূর্ণভাবে তিরোহিত হইয়াছে। সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের দ্বারা ও অধঃ পক্ষপাতভূর্ণ বিভাগের ফলে দেশের আবলবৃন্দাবনিত সর্বসাধারণ সর্বতোভাবে নিষাতিত ও অতিষ্ঠ হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। তথা- কথিত ইতর, ভদ্র, ধনী, দরিদ্র আগমের সাধারণ সকলের পক্ষপাতিত্ব গুণ করিয়া এই সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগ নামীয় শোণিত শোষণকারী দানবের মুখিরাঙ্ক লকট অর্থাৎ দুর্গিবার পতিত প্রধাতি হইতেছে। ইহার ব্যবস্থা শৃঙ্খলার ভনসাধারণের সুবিধার পরিবর্তে যোর অসুবিধা হইয়াছে। একদিকে দেশের লোক যেন চাউল, কাপড়, কুইনাইন, নারিকেল তেল, কেরলিন, আটা, চিনি প্রভৃতি বিত্যাব্যাহাৰ্য ও প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যাদির জরোপা বস্তন ব্যবস্থার প্রচারিত হইয়া জনশনে, বনাবস্থায়, বিনা চিকিত্সায় ক্লিষ্ট ও নিষীড়িত হইতেছে, কতজন জাবার অকালে ভীষন হারাইতেছে। অন্যদিকে তেমন বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের জগার কুশার কতক শ্রেণীর পুঁজিবাদী ধনিক ও বণিকগণ লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার কন্ট্রী পাইয়া চাউল, চিনি, কাপড়, কুইনাইন প্রভৃতি জিনিষের ভিয়ারী ও এক্সেসী নিয়া চোরা বাজার সৃষ্টি করিয়া বাজারাতি চম্পাৰালী কোটিপতি বনী হইতেছে। এই সব শ্রেণীর লোক গভর্ণমেন্টের হাসা পোষোপ্তরূপে বিরক্ত করিতেছে। তারপর সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের কম্পচারীদের ভো পোয়াবার। দেশের লোক চাউল জভাবে অন্যহারে

মরুক স্থিতি নাই, বন্দ্যাজাবে উল্লেখ থাকুক, সম্প্রদ ইচ্ছাভের হানি নাই, কুইনাইন অভাবে চিকিৎসা বিব্রাট হটুক লোকসান নাই, চিনি অভাবে রোগীর পথ্য, শিশুর পানীয় রহিত হটুক দোহ নাই, কেরশন বিনা অর্থকারে থাকিলা মানুষের মৃত্যু, চক্ষুরের আক্রমণ ও সর্পদংশন প্রভৃতি বিপদ বরণ করুক আগশোর নাই। বেশে থাকুক, শৃঙ্খল এই ঘূরখোর ও দুর্নীতিপরায়ণ সিজিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের কম্পট কম্চারিবন্দ। এ বিভাগের নীতি যে কেবল মাত্র সড়তার স্থলে শটতা, আন্তরিকতার ও সহানুভূতির স্থলে উপহাস ও উদাসীনতা তাহা দেশবাসী মাঠেই সম্রাক উপলব্ধি করিতে পারিয়াছে। ধোকাবাজী ও কারসাজির এরূপ অপবর্ন সমাবেশ কেবল বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের ইঞ্জিত ও অলঙ্কারী নিষ্পে-
শেরই ফল। বিশ্বের অন্য কোন সুসভ্য দেশের পক্ষে ইহা কোন ক্রমেই সম্ভবপর নহে। একেতো সিজিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের সরবরাহ দেশের জনসংখ্যানুশাভে ও চাহিদার তুলনায় অত্যধিক অকিঞ্চকর উদ্ভূতির নিয়োজিত কম্চারীদের “অম্বেক মা বশি, অম্বেক নিজ গোষ্ঠী” নীতি ত আছেই। ইহার ফলে প্রকৃত গ্রাপণের সমস্ত আশা আকাঙ্ক্ষা বাথ্যতার পর্যবসিত হইয়াছে। অন্যদিকে চোরা বাজার পরিকল্পনাকারিগণ অতিরিক্ত মূল্যকার দৌলতে ঐশ্বর্যের পাছাড় গড়িয়া তুলিতেছে। ব্যবসায় বাহার প্রধান উপজীবিকা তাহার ব্যবসা বন্ধ হইয়াছে, অন্য প্রকারে নানারূপ উপচৌকন সাহায্যে সেই ব্যবসা অন্যে লইয়া সখের খাতিরে—দেশস্ব স্বরল অধিবাসিগণকে বিবিধ প্রকারে প্রতারিত ও বিভ্রান্ত করিতেছে। বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের এই একদেশদশী পদ্ধতি দেশবাসীর পক্ষে সত্যই ভীতিপ্রদ ও অসমনীয় হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। মাস্তমন্ডলীর করুণায় সাপ্লাই বিভাগে যিনি কোন প্রকারে একবার প্রবেশ করিতে পারিয়া-
ছেন তিনিই লক্ষ্যবস্তুর রাবণ হইয়াছেন। বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেন্টের শাসন চাচুয়ো দেশবাসীর বৃকে জগদল শাষণ চাপা পড়িয়াছে। তাহাদের অস্তিশপ্ত ভীবনে স্বস্থ শান্তির বাসনা নিম্মূল হইয়াছে। এই দুর্দ্দিনে দেশের লোক নিত্যব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদির অভাবে অশেষ যাতনা ভোগ করিতেছে। আর বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্ট অথবা সাপ্লাই বিভাগে অসংখ্য চাকুরিয়া বাড়াইয়া তাহাদিগকে অতিরিক্ত মাহিনা ও কম মূল্যে রেশন দিয়া খাওয়াইয়া পরাইয়া বড়লোক বানাষ্টেছেন। বিগত ১৩৫০ সালের দ্বিতীয়া উদন্ত কমিটির ভাবত গভর্ণ-
মেন্ট কর্তৃক নিযুক্ত সভাপতি মিঃ উড-হেড সাহেবের রিপোর্টই বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেন্টের অযোগ্যতার জলন্ত সাক্ষ্য। সিজিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের কার্যের মধ্যে সাধারণতঃ যে সব দোহ পরিলক্ষিত হয় তন্মধ্যে অনিয়-
মানুবর্তিতা, বস্তু-ব্যবস্থার অপব্যবহার ও প্রতিকূলচার, চৌকাঁড়ের অপকৌশল শিক্ষা, ন্যায্য অধিকারে বঞ্চিতা, সাপ্তায়িকতার ভাবপ্রবণতায় পক্ষপাতিত্বপূর্ণ বিচার ইত্যাদিই প্রধান। যে কোন বিবেকবুদ্ধি সম্পন্ন বিষয়ণ ব্যক্তিই ইহার কম্পনৈপুণ্য সহজেই অনুধাবন করিতে পারিবেন। যে পরিমিত দ্রব্যাদি প্রত্যেক জেলায় সরবরাহ করা হইয়া থাকে তাহা স্তরের পর স্তরের ভিতর দিয়া একটি ইউনিয়ন পর্যন্ত পৌঁছিতে প্রায় শূন্য গিয়া দাঁড়ায়। মূলে বিভাগীয় বড় কর্তা হাতবুদর মোড়ল হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া ইচ্ছক পাণ্ডাদের পর্যন্ত গভর্ণমেন্টের দয়া দাঙ্কিণের ফলভাগী হয়। হজুর বাহাদুরদের কৃপাদর্শি ও
সুন্দর তৎপ্রতি বিশেষভাবে আগ্রহিত নিপতিত হওয়ার পর বানরের পিষ্টক ভাগের পালার পরিসমাপ্তিতে যাহা অবশিষ্ট থাকে তাহাই হস্তভাগ্য গ্রামবাসীদের নামে লটারীরূপে বিতরিত হয়। ইহাই বাংলার ভাগ্য-
বিধাতাদের সাবর্জনীন দেশপ্রীতির ও জনহিতৈষিতার প্রথম ও শেষ নমুনা। চোরা বাজার করণ, নিরস্ত্রিত দরের ব্যতিক্রম ঘটান, ব্যবসায়ের দ্রব্য ও কৃষিজাত দ্রব্যসম্ভার স্থানান্তরিত করণ, আইনভঃ অচল ও দস্তাবেজ। এ সমস্ত কার্যের প্রত্যেকটির পশ্চাতে এনফোর্সমেন্টের তীব্র দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী, পুলিশের রোহ-
কষায়িত অশীথির কড়া পাছারা, হাকিমের হুকুম, ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেন্টের সজাগ চাহুনি প্রভৃতি সব ডাইনীরাই মস্তব্যস্ত বিদ্যমান, কিন্তু কোন প্রকারে একবার তাহাদের পকেট ভর্তি হইলে সব অসম্ভব সম্ভব হয় এবং সব আইন ও বাধা নিষেধ ঘূচিয়া যায়। ইহাই ভায়ন কাটি মরণ কাটি নামক হানু দন্ডের অমোঘ শক্তি। এরূপ প্রেমে সকল প্রেতেরই একই ঔষধ। কাজেকাজেই বাংলাদেশের অধিবাসীদের কল্যাণার্থে এই সিজিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের ব্যয়ভার অথবা বহন না করিয়া অচিরেই বাতিল করা গভর্ণমেন্টের একান্ত কর্তব্য। কলকাতার ব্যবস্থা হইলেছিল সকলকে সমানভাবে ও ন্যায্য মূল্যে প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ বন্টনের জন্য। ফল হইয়াছে একবারে বিপরীত। বাজারে জিনিষ পাওয়া যায় না; কিন্তু চোরাবাজারে সবই পাওয়া যায়। দাম দিতে হয় চার-পাঁচগুণ বেশী। সিজিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের অযোগ্যতা ও দুর্নীতির কথা বলা হইয়াছে। (Controlএর কৃষ্ণের কথা অধিক বিশেষণ করার আরশাক নাই। Control
অবিজ্ঞেয় তুলিয়া দিয়া সিজিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগ বন্ধ করলে লোকে স্বস্তির নিশ্বাস ফেলিয়া বীচিতে।
তৈলের control উঠানের সঙ্গে সলো কলিকাতা বাজারে তৈল অনায়াসে পাওয়া যাইতেছে।
অথবা দাম কিছুই অধিক। অপরদিকে করুণার কেনা-কোনা দেখুন। ঘন্টার পর ঘন্টা, শত শত লোক

দোকানে দাঁড়াইয়া থাকিয়া কেহ কিছু পাইতেছেন, কেহ পাইতেছেন না। পণ্ডিত সের করিয়া প্রত্যেকের পাওয়ার কথা। তৈয়া টোমিতে ওজন দেখিয়া লওয়া সম্ভব হয় না। বাড়ীতে ওজন করিলে দেখা যায় ও সেরের স্থানে ৩৫ সের বা ৩৬ সের মাত্র করিয়া আছে। অবশিষ্ট চোরাবাজারে বাইতেছে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে এই বিরূপিতা বহুদূরীতি অনুসন্ধান করিয়া দেখিতে অনুরোধ করি। কাপড়, করলা, চিনি, আটা, মারিজেন তৈল, কেরশিন, চাউন, সৌম্যদ্রব্য, ও সিমেন্ট ইত্যাদি control রাখিবার এখন কোনই প্রয়োজন নাই। অবিলম্বে এই সবের control তুলিয়া দিবার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করি। এই কথা বলিয়া আমার ছাটাই প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিতে বলি।

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA MAHANTY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, সিভিল সাপ্লাই ডিপার্টমেন্ট আমাদের বাংলাদেশের অস্তিত্বরূপে দাঁড়িয়েছে। এই ভূত যতদিন না দেশের ধার থেকে নেমে যাবে, ততদিন পর্যন্ত বাজার জনসাধারণের কিছুমাত্র রক্ষা নাই। এর দ্বারা জনসাধারণের কিছুমাত্র উপকার তো হয়ই নাই, বরং দেশে শৃঙ্খলা দুর্নীতি জনচোর প্রভৃতির পক্ষে জিনিষপত্র ক্রয় করার অসুবিধা বিঘ্ন সৃষ্টি করছে। সময় অতি অল্প থাকার জন্য আমি দুটি মাত্র জিনিস বলবো। একটি জিনিষ হচ্ছে, মেদিনীপুরে Procurement Policy। মেদিনীপুরে কৃষকেরা ধানের দাম পাঁচ টাকা বেলী পাচ্ছে না। তার কারণ মেদিনীপুরে পাঁচ টাকা করে ধানের মণ, আর East Bengal-এর প্রত্যেক district-এ ১৮।১৯ টাকা। মেদিনীপুরে চালের দাম ৮ টাকা, টাকার ৩০ টাকা। এই procurement যদি এভাবে চলতে থাকে, একদিকে মেদিনীপুরের কৃষকেরা ধান-চাল নাখা মূল্যে বিক্রী করতে না পারায় তাদের ধান-চাল ক্রমা থেকে যাবে, তাদের টাকার অভাব, তখন নুন কাপড় ইত্যাদির দাম প্রায় চার পাঁচগুণ বেড়ে যাবে, তারা কোন জিনিস খরচ করতে পারবে না, আর পূর্ববঙ্গের deficit জেলাতে চালের অভাবের না খেয়ে সোক মরে যাবে; যদি এই Procurement Policy-র পরিবর্তন করা না যায়, কিংবা control তুলে দিয়ে freely ধান চালের যাতায়াতের সুবিধা না দেওয়া যায়, তাহলে অতি সত্তর বাংলাদেশে দুর্ভিক্ষ উপস্থিত হবে।

আমরা পূর্বেরও দেখছি ১৯৪৩ সালে ঠিক এই একমতাবে দুর্ভিক্ষ সৃষ্টি করা গিয়েছিল। সেই সময় দেখছি ভাতার ছাড়ার কষ্টা ধান ক্রমা হয়ে আছে, কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও কৃষকেরা ধান কিনতে পারছিল তারা না খেতে পেয়ে মারা গেছে। সুতরাং আমার suggestion- এক ছয় procurement ভাল করে করে মেদিনীপুরের ধান-চাল নিয়ে যাওয়া হোক পূর্ববঙ্গে। তা যদি Civil Supply Department না করতে পারে, তবে control ছেড়ে দিয়ে তারা freely ধান-চাল একত্রিত থেকে অন্য জেলায় যাতায়াত করবার ব্যবস্থা করুক। দ্বিতীয় হচ্ছে মেদিনীপুর টাউনে ও যড়গপুর টাউনে যে রেলস্টেশন চলেছে তার স্টেশনটা আমরা বুঝতে পারি না। আজ এই যদি মেদিনীপুর ও যড়গপুরের সত্তরবা-সীকে তিন ছটাক করে চাল খেতে হয় মাথাপিছু, তাহলে আমি বলি সেখানে তিন ছটাক করে দিয়ে যে চাল বাড়তি থাকে সেটা পূর্ববঙ্গে নিয়ে যেতে হবে। তবে বাজার কিছু উপকার হতে পারে। যদি মেদিনীপুর জেলার ধান-চাল বিক্রী না হয় ও পূর্ববঙ্গে ধান-চাল না পাওয়া যায় তাহলে এই মেদিনীপুর সত্তরবাসী ও যড়গপুর সত্তরবাসীদের তিন ছটাক করে চাল খাট্টিয়ে তাদের জীর্ণ করে কি লাভ হচ্ছে গভর্ণ-মেন্টের? এই অল্পবুক রেলস্টেশন তুলে দেবার জন্য বারবার গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছে representation দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং মেদিনীপুরের চেম্বার কমার্শিয়াল ও তা recommendation করেছে। আমরা বুঝতে পারি না—কেন গভর্ণমেন্ট আজও তা তুলে দিচ্ছে না। Civil Supply Department কতগুলো ভূত ছেড়ে দিয়েছে আমাদের গ্রামে গ্রামে—যেমন Procurement Inspector Movement Inspector, Enforcement Inspector ইত্যাদি কত আর নাম করব! ওতগূল Inspectors, তাদের কোনই কাজ নাই, জনসাধারণের কাছ থেকে ঘৃণা আদায় করাই তাদের একমাত্র কাজ।

Mrs. ANWARA KHATUN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with all respect to my party—Civil Supply-এর নামে আজ বাজার যে বদরতা চলছে—তা বলতেও লজ্জার মাথা এত হয়ে আসে। এই Department-এর পরিদ্রু অতি বৃহৎ এবং মহৎ। অল্প ভালতেই বাহবা পাওয়া যায় এবং অল্প না পিচ্ছাইলেই পাশের অল্প গড়ে নিয়ে যায়।

আজ নিরীহ কালোজীর্ণ উপর Civil Supply-এর নিষ্ঠুর অত্যাচার ও অবিচার দেখে যেন হয় এ যেন একটি Frankarlin গঠিত কুন্তরোপ প্রস্তুত পল্লভ শব্দে, যতদূর এর অস্বাভাবিক ক্রিয়া

সম্পন্ন হয় ততই মঙ্গল। এ কথা জেনেও যে আজ Civil Supply বাজেটের জন্য কোটি কোটি টাকা পাস করে দিচ্ছি, তার জন্য কি আমরাও অংশভোগ্য নই? এর পাপ আমাদের উপরও কিছটা লাগবে। তাই পাশমুখ হতে চাই এবং আজ অন্যায়ের গুণ কীটন করে এর প্রতিবাদ করতে চাই। যে টাকা পাস করে মিসাম্য—সে টাকা বাঙালীর বুকের রক্ত জন করা টাকা—তা যেন তাদেরই জন্য ব্যয় করা হয় এবং ভবিষ্যতে এই টাকা নিয়ে যেন ছিনিমিনি খেলা না হয়।

ইসলামের বলে কোন বিষয়ের ভার যদি কারও হাতে দেওয়া হয়, তাহলে তার দায়িত্ব অতি মহৎ। তাই আমাদের পরগম্বর হজরত রসূল, খালিফা ওমর, সুলতান নাসিরুদ্দিন, গুরুজ্ঞের প্রভৃতি বিশাল রাজ্যের অধিপতি হয়েও নিজদের কটোপাশ্রিত অর্থদ্বিগুণে কায়দাশে দিন যাপন করতেন। আজ যে আমরা ইসলামের ধারা দেই তার আদর্শ কোথায়? আজ বাংলার ভাড়াবের চাবী যার দায়িত্বে দেওয়া হয়েছিল, তিনি কি ঐক্যবদ্ধ হয়ে পাবেন না যে তিনি আজ কতবাচ্য? তাঁর গুরুদায়িত্ব পালনে তিনি অসমর্থ? আজ কি কোটি কোটি বাঙালীর করুণ আত্মনাদ Civil Supply Minister-এর কর্ণকূহরে প্রবেশ করছে না?

Civil Supply এর গুণ কীটন করতে গেলে Islamic Encyclopædia-এ হার মানবে। তবে দু'চারটি কথা এ সম্বন্ধে বলবো যাত্র। আজ টাকার চাউনের নাম ৩০ টাকার পৌঁছেছে। আর দিনাজপুর থেকে deputation Minister-এর কাছে আসছে যে তাদের চাল এত বেশী জমে গেছে যে তারা চাল বিক্রী করতে পারছে না। আমি বারবার তাকে অনুরোধ করেছি যে টাকার না খেয়ে লোক মরছে, দিনাজপুর থেকে আপনারা চাল টাকায় এনে দিন। তা মন্ত্রীমহাশয় শোনেন নি। সে ত আর Civil Supply Minister-এর দোষ নয়—সেটা বাস্তবিকের দোষ। তাঁরা এক circular জারী করে দিলেন যে অন্য জেলার লোক বরিশাল গিয়ে ধান কাটলে মাথাপ্রতি পনের মণ ধান নিয়ে আসতে পারবে। কিন্তু দুঃখের সচিত্র এখানে জানাচ্ছি যে নিরীহ লোকদের দিয়ে কাজ আদায় করে আজ Government তাদের ন্যায্য পাওনা ধান নিয়ে যেতে দিচ্ছে না। মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের কাছে যাওয়াতে তিনি বললেন বরিশালে চালের মণ ২২ টাকা। তিনি কি বলতে চান যে এর জন্য এই গরীবরাই দায়ী? এরূপ অত্যাচার চালজুয়াচুরি বাংলায় আর কত দিন চলবে জানি না।

আজ Civil Supply-এর জুগ্মে বাঙালী কেবল নিরক্ষর, বস্ত্রহীন ও ঔপাতিত নয়—আজ বাঙালীর বাবসায় বাণিজ্যের ক্ষেত্রও বন্ধ। আজ control-এর কপালে বাণিজ্যজগতী Civil Supply-এর তালয় বাঁধা পড়েছে। আজ কেবল বাঙালীই বুকুচ্ছু নয়—আজ Civil Supply পতঙ্গস্ত অফিসগুলির দেওয়াল পর্যন্ত বুকুচ্ছু হয়ে উঠেছে। এখানে লোক গেলে ছা করে যেতে আসে—কিছু না দিলে বাঁচবার উপায় নেই। আজ সত্যি কি এই Civil Supply Department-এর corruption বন্ধ করা যায় না? কেউ কেউ মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের পক্ষ থেকে বলেছিলেন যে black marketing-এর case যদি হাতে হাতে ধরিয়ে দেওয়া হয়—তবে এর প্রতিকার নিশ্চয়ই তাঁরা করবেন। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি—আমরা কি এখানে D. I. B-র কাজ নিয়ে এসেছি? বাসতার উপর যে এস্মিনিয়ামের জিনিষপত্র প্রকাশ্যে black marketing হচ্ছে তার প্রতিকার হয় না কেন? যদি কতকো অবহেলা না করে পাপ গ্রাসে পড়তে না চান, তাহলে হারুন রাসদের মত গোয়েন্দাগিরি মন্ত্রী সাহেবেরই করা উচিত। আর যদি তাঁর Department থেকে এই বহুনিষ্পত্তি অনাচার তাড়ান সত্যি দূরুছ হয়ে থাকে, তবে আমি বাকি এ Department-কে শীঘ্রই সমাধিস্থ করুন।

Mr. RAJANI KANTA RAY BARMAN: Sir, we Bengalees at present are passing through political and administrative chaos of the first magnitude which evidently proves our complete subjugation to the foreign policies. But still the other day, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared that we are on the verge of independence. We welcome the day of our future glory and are awaiting with earnest expectation to see India free. But when we think of the status of a human life we are brought in in this country we are afraid of the background that may come into play with the final declaration by His Majesty's Government. We are in acute distress and scarcity about our food and clothing which are the essentials of human life and for want of which we are doomed to the utmost wretchedness that may be imagined of. And in drawing attention to this side of importance, we find

ourselves abusing the power of legislation to the degree that would go to entangle us to the binding of laws, which may in the long run paralyse our natural freedom. And to speak the truth, the Ordinances promulgated giving effect to the controls on essential commodities, which afterwards have been made permanent by means of legislation, is the best and most striking instance that has been forced in, at the cost of the right of a man's sustenance. We have done much and have been doing so in the name of party principles which on the other hand may be explained as our obligatory submissions to the Imperialism. And the key note to such conduct may be attributed to our weakness that is always found to play in taking us in charm with the offer of position, places in Government posts and lucrative sources. Thus, that we often talk high but act low and are ready to accept any idea brought forward from the other side irrespective of considering to what end they are driven to. If it appears to be a fact that we are approaching our independence, we ought to mend our ways and take a complete turn in our political advancement. I admit that during the war it was a pressing necessity of the Government to have a capture over the foodstuffs to satisfy the unavoidable and ugly demands of war; but now that the war is over, there is nothing emergent to carry the controls any further. At present we have been made familiar with a loud cry of shortage of food, shortage of cloth and shortage of what not. But in truer sense of speaking it has been rather staged to give a start to the slogan of shortage only to maintain the cause of keeping the controls in force. The explanation to such an idea drives us to fall back and recollect the horrors of painful dearthness that prevailed during last six years when we were obliged to supply food grains to the foreigners along with our self-maintenance. There was then no consideration of shortage. Secondly we cannot find way to imagine that with the very end of the war Bengal has lost its productive power altogether. Thirdly, Bengal is an agricultural province and owns the richest soil and there was nothing extraordinary that came in the way, by this time to hamper the production abnormally. Still we have taken our brains to the painful task of proving mathematically, geometrically and scientifically the truth of the idea of shortage in every type of essential commodities. We know not if there is anything going on to help the politics of the day.

(At this stage the red light was lit and the member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED SERAJAL HAQUE: Sir, I will offer my comments on a few of the heads of expenditure for which provision has been made in the Budget. I find that under the head "63. Extraordinary Charges in India" a sum of Rs.88 crores has been provided for 1947-48 as against Rs.9.82 crores in the revised estimate for 1946-47. This sum is still too high a figure considering the resources of the Province. I find that a sum of Rs.18 lakhs has been provided for in the Revenue Budget for construction storage. I do not understand why this charge should not have been borne by the corresponding capital head "85-A. Capital Outlay, etc."

Under the head "85-A, etc."

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Haque, your speech refers to the head "85-A—Capital Outlay". You will take your chance when that demand is moved. Please wait now.

Mr. HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: Sir, assassin's knife on the one hand and scarcity and high price of food on the other hand, if it is not misused, are the achievements of the present Ministry. In 1943-44, 35 to 40 lakhs of people had to die of starvation when tons of food in hundreds and thousands were allowed to rot in godowns. Sir, the poor people, the labourers, have gone on strike. Why this strike? It is the high price of foodstuff that is responsible. Our European friends will say that the strike is illegal. Yes, the strike is illegal. Law is no law if it does not give

food to the poor and protection to the innocent from the knives of assassins. The price of the food are soaring high every day in Dacca, in Faridpur, in Nadia. It is selling from Rs.25 to Rs.30 per maund. We have heard, Sir, that there has been a bumper crop this year, still procurement and control are going on as usual and prices are soaring so high. The people of Bengal suspect, as a result of experience of 1944, when large quantities of food were allowed to rot in Government godowns and thousands died on the streets without food. Who knows that in Government godowns still there are large quantities of foodstuffs while the prices of foodstuffs are soaring high and the poor people, the labourers and the peasants are facing starvation. Sir, those who are born with silver spoon or a silver spoon has been put into their mouth through the favour of Ministers, they cannot realise the present situation. About the system of distribution of ration in Calcutta, I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister last year in the budget discussion. The Hon'ble Minister said a new system would come in force from the 1st of September. Government is always accused of making schemes but they do not care to put them into effect.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: In the view of Government it is desirable to continue controls as long as the supplies available are totally incommensurate with potential demands. Any relaxation of control would then result in the disappearance of available supplies into hoards and prices will rise and the poorer sections will not be able to purchase at those prices. Government are not, however, in favour of continuing control longer than is absolutely necessary, and following this principle, they have already relaxed considerably the control exercised during the war on certain commodities, which is considered to be essential. Government are not however in favour of continuing control longer than is absolutely necessary, and following the principle they have already relaxed considerably the control exercised during the war-time on certain commodities. (A voice: what commodities?). Mustard oil. (A voice: what about coconut oil?). Coconut oil is not controlled by the Government of Bengal but by the Government of India.

In respect of rice, the result of relaxing control is illustrated by the policy of relaxing the Foodgrains Control Order from August 1946. The effect of this relaxation was to allow the trader to operate over wider areas with the result that considerable portions of this year's marketable surplus have gone into trader's hoard or disposed of by them at black-market prices with the present disastrous effect on the price level. The Foodgrains Control Order has just been tightened in order to prevent further extensive purchases by traders but it is too early yet to assess the result of this. The policy of continuing controls has also been endorsed both by the Government of India as well as by the provinces.

As regards textiles, the control of the mills producing cloth and yarn is an all-India matter, and, as Bengal is a deficit zone, it is in the interests of this province that the production of cloth and yarn should be controlled at the centre in order that the province may receive its fair share of the total production in India.

Control over cloth within the province is also very necessary in view of the present short supply. The province is capable of absorbing much more cloth than it receives as its quota. The amounts that are actually received afford a bare minimum ration for the individual. If the controls were lifted, there would be no means left to ensure that each individual would get his fair share at a fair price.

As the supply of sugar, wheat and wheat products is less than their demand, it is also necessary to control their prices and distribution.

As regards Consumer Goods, quite a large number of items have recently been decontrolled, leaving only a very few on the list. The question of

removing control over these items also will be reviewed from time to time and steps will be taken to decontrol these as soon as the supply position improves.

Items recently decontrolled are: bicycles and spare parts thereof, table fans, sewing machines and needles, lanterns, fountain pens, pencils, art silk fabrics, radios and spare parts thereof, utensils of brass and copper.

Items over which control still exists are: umbrellas and parts thereof, refrigerators and spare parts thereof, art silk yarn, aluminium utensils, crockery, typewriters, clock and watches.

Iron and steel is controlled by the Government of India under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, and the distribution of the provincial quotas for civilian consumption alone is managed by the Provincial Governments. We have recently moved the Government of India to increase our provincial quota to ease the position.

The position regarding coal is rather disquieting. We are not getting ~~over~~ 50 per cent. of the provincial allotment due to inadequacy of the supply of rakes. Recently we had sent our Provincial Coal Controller to Delhi to contact the Transport and the Industries and Supplies Department for placing our difficulties to the Government of India, and it is now hoped that the position will show improvement before long. So long as the articles of necessity are in short supply, it is essential to have a machinery to control the prices and to ensure equitable distribution among the consumers. Such a machinery is provided by the Civil Supplies Department. We have, however, already effected economies in the department.

Then regarding foodgrains procurement having special regard to prices, the Government procurement policy is to cordon the surplus areas and to have procurement by prohibiting exports to places outside the cordon and then purchase the maximum amount out of the marketable surplus of the provincial rice crop up to the target fixed for the year. The production of rice and paddy in the province is from 9 to 10 million tons a year. Out of this, Government desire to procure a minimum of 7 million tons during the current year. For the rest of the marketable surplus Government rely on the local traders to supply a part of the requirements through village shops and *hats*. With the procured quantity *plus* whatever imports can be secured from outside, Government aims at providing the entire requirements of overall rationing areas, making supplies available to large employers of labour whose great purchasing power would otherwise disturb the market if they were permitted to buy their own stocks and distributing supplies in deficit areas or wherever else shortages occur with the object of feeding the poorer section of the people through modified rationing and moderating the market where necessary through unloading Government stocks.

The method adopted is to make purchases of both rice and paddy at fixed rates which are calculated in order to give an adequate return to the cultivator and to the rice-miller. In order to achieve this, Government has established purchasing centres throughout all the surplus areas of the province where stocks are brought for sale either by small agents appointed to purchase on behalf of Government or by the cultivator himself.

(The Hon'ble Minister having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

The motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Roy that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Mahanty that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Rajani Kanta Ray Barman that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogendra Chandra Das that the demand of Rs.8,80,09,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran that a sum of Rs.8,80,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" was then put and agreed to.

85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Re.1 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading".

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Re.1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" be reduced by one anna. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the general policy of the foodgrains procurement having special regard to prices given to sellers.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Re.1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" be reduced by one anna. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the boat construction scheme, with special reference to the failure of the Government to give effect to the Finance Minister's public assurance that sitting enquiry will be made in the matter.

I also beg to move that the demand of Re.1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" be reduced by one anna. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the loss on procurement operations.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলাদেশের এক অংশে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি গভর্ণমেন্ট কর্তৃক ধানের দর ৬৮ টাকা নির্ধারিত হলেও কিংবা সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলে ৬৮ টাকা হলেও উপলব্ধকারী চাষীরা পাচ্ছে ৫ টাকা ৫৮ টাকা, বড়জোর ৫১১৭ আনা। আর বাংলাদেশের অপর অংশে দেখতে পাচ্ছি গভর্ণমেন্ট নির্ধারিত চালের দর ১০৫৭ আনা হলেও টাকা, ময়মনসিংহে প্রকৃতি জায়গায় ২৫১২১২৭ টাকা থেকে ১০ টাকা দরে স্নোকে চাল কিনতে বাধ্য হচ্ছে। সংবাদপত্রে দেখতে পেলাম কোথাও ৮০ টাকা পর্যন্ত চালের দর হয়েছে। এই যে দুটো বিভিন্নমুখী অবস্থা এটা বাংলাদেশের মণ্ডলীভিত্তিক অর্থনীতির পরিচয় দিচ্ছে ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। আমার কাছে একটা জিনিষ বেশী মাত্রায় ভেঙেছে যে সিভিল সার্ভিসে বিভাগের মন্ত্রীকে প্রায়ই হাউসে দেখতে পাই না। কিন্তু আজ তাঁকে সৌভাগ্যক্রমে আমরা এখানে দেখতে পাচ্ছি। আমার মনে হয় তিনি মণ্ডলীভিত্তিক বেনামীতেই গলাচ্ছেন। বাংলাদেশের সাত কোটি লোকের খাদ্য সংগ্রহ করে খাদ্য পরবরাহ করার দায়িত্ব যার উপর রয়েছে, তিনি বাংলাদেশের দুটা অংশে যে একপন্থ হচ্ছে তা দেখেও কোন প্রতিকার করতে পারছেন না এটা তাঁর অকম্পণতা ছাড়া আর কিছু বলব না।

মন্ত্রীরামস্বর recently মেদিনীপুর জেলায় গিয়েছিলেন। তাঁর আগমন উপলক্ষে District Publicity Officer কে যে চিঠি দিয়েছেন তাতে লিখেছেন:—

"The District Publicity Officer says 'The Hon'ble Minister was surprised to know that the mills in certain cases were paying Rs.3-10 per maund of paddy to the producers and expressed the view that they should be paid Rs.6-4 per maund. He told the local officers to take necessary action and see that the mill-owners do not profiteer at the cost of the producers.'"

এই একটি কথা মন্ত্রীরামস্বর বলেন যে চাষীদের মেরে তাদের টাকাতে মিলওয়ালাদের বাঁচা উচিত নয়। তাঁর অধীনস্থ কম্পটারী Assistant Regional Controller of Procurementকে আমার বন্ধু রজনী বাবু এক চিঠি লিখেছিলেন—“ধানের দাম ৫৮ কেন হবে” তাঁর উত্তর District Magistrate এর যারফং তিনি দিয়েছিলেন।

“Government purchasing rate for average quality of paddy is Rs.6-4 *ex-procurement* godown which includes the cost of transportation, marking, etc., and as such the D. P. agent will purchase at Rs.6-4 *minus* such cost as to cover the above incidental charges. If the quality falls far below the standard, suitable deduction is made.”

এই দৃষ্টে statement আমি বিশেষ করে আপনাদের কাছে উপস্থিত করতে চাই। গভর্ণমেন্টের নিম্না-
রিত দর ৬৮ টাকা, কিন্তু চাষীরা কত পাবে সেটা Regional Controller-এর যে উক্তি তা থেকে ঠিক
বোঝা যাচ্ছে না। তার statement-এর মধ্যে একটা কণিক থেকে গেছে। চাল সব বন্ধন ধান খেতে হয়—, তার
quality ঠিকই আছে—কোন কম-বেশী ভাল-মন্দ করা হয় নাই। এই যে এত বড় একটা কণিক সেখানে
রেখে দেওয়া হয়েছে। এক্ষেত্রে হয়ত বললে— এই ধানটা খারাপ, নেব না—আট আনা কম নিতে হবে।
সে ক্ষেত্রে ঐ D. P. A.কে কিছু ঘুষ দিলেই সব ঠিক হয়ে গেল। এই যে loophole তাদের
দিয়েছেন, আমি আশা করি মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তার পরিবেশে উদ্ভট করে তার একটা প্রতিকার করবেন। মিনের
জনাব লক্ষ চাষী দ্বারা আপনাদের খাদ্য যোগান দেয়, তারা যদি সব না খেয়ে মারা যায়, তাহলে
আপনাদের জন্য ধান চাষ করবে কে? সমস্ত বাংলাদেশে দেখতে পাচ্ছি যারা পরিগ্রহ করে খাদ্য উপলব্ধ
করে তাদের দেখবার জন্য কেউ নেই। কিন্তু কোট-প্যান্ট পরে দুশকেটে হাত দিয়ে সিগারেটের ডিবা
নিয়ে যারা ঘুরে বেড়ায়, তাদের মাইনে বাড়াবার জন্য আপনারা বাস্তু হন। তাই সোনার বাংলায়
স্বনামধন্য মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি এই প্রকার burglary-টা পরিচালনা করে দরিদ্র কৃষক হাতে
ধান কম দামে কিনতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করুন, কিংবা কণ্ট্রোলটা তুলে দিন—এই দুটোর একটা করুন,
আর না হয় তিনি মস্তিষ্কটা চাটুন। আমি মনে করি এই পরিষদে এমন কোন সভ্য নাই যিনি আমার এই
কথার প্রতিবাদ করতে না চান।

Inter-District Condon বলে এই যে একটা জিনিস আছে সেটা একবারেই
অর্থহীন, ফুলো। না হলে বরিশাল জেলা যা এক সময় বাংলাদেশের granary ছিল— বাংলা-
দেশের ভূগোলে ছোট বেলার পুড়ুজিলা - “Barisal is the granary of Bengal,” তাকে আজ
deficit district করা হয়েছে। বরিশাল থেকে ফরিদপুর জেলার ভেতর দিয়ে অর্থাৎ ধান-চাল
ঢাকায় চলে যায় আর সেখানে গিয়ে চাল ২৭।২৮।৩০ টাকা করে বিক্রী হয়। আমি জানি থাকী রংএর
জামা পরে একদল বে-সরকারী লোক গভর্ণমেন্টের সহিত আমাদের কোন সম্পর্ক নাই, ঐ সব ধান-চাল
বোঝাই নৌকা লম্বে ধরে ৫ Rs. ৫০ টাকা ঘুষ নিয়ে ছেড়ে দেয়। এ সবের প্রতিকারের চেষ্টা করে
কোন প্রতিকার পাবনি।

মিনাক্সপুর থেকে মিলওয়ানারা বলছে—আমাদের লালবাতি তৈরিতে মিতে ব্যবহার। আমরা দেখছি
বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের লালবাতি, রাস্তা লাল, সমস্তই লাল হচ্ছে আর ওদিকে ধান চলে যাচ্ছে। এখনই
হয়ত লালবাতি ভুলেবে—দরিদ্র কৃষকের ধানের দর কমিয়ে দেওয়া হচ্ছে—সে লাল হবে না, তার ধান
লাল হবে—আর তারা শূঁকরে শূঁকরে মারা যাবে। গভর্ণমেন্টের সবই হচ্ছে direct action এ
এটা হচ্ছে direct procurement। সবই লাল এবং সবই direct। কিন্তু এই direct
এর ফলে কৃষকের রক্ত থাকবে না। আমি সেজন্য মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি ধানের দর ৬৮ টাকা
থেকে বাধ্য করুন, আর তার অতিরিক্ত যাদেন, সেটা পাবে চাষী। যে সব Direct Purchasing Agent-
দের এক আনা করে কমিশন দেন, সেটা হচ্ছে প্রদের লাভ। আমি বলছি, গভর্ণমেন্ট থেকে ৬৮ টাকার
উপর ধান কেনা হয় এবং কমিশন দেওয়া D. P. A.কে এক আনা ও godown এ নিতে গেলে অতিরিক্ত
তিন আনা বেশী দিতে হয়—এটা হচ্ছে transportation cost কিন্তু এই সমস্ত যতটুকু কৃষকের
কাছ থেকে আদায় করা হয়। আর বাকী সেলাই করা, ওজন করা, তার যা কিছু গরত সমস্ত ঐ ৬৮ টাকার
ভেতর। সেই দরিদ্র কৃষকদের যা বাপ কেউ নেই বলে গভর্ণমেন্ট এই রকম করছেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: আর এক মিনিট সময় দয়া করে দিন। একথা
মোটাই অতিসংশ্লিষ্টক নয় যে ৬৮ টাকা দরে ধান দ্বারা Direct Purchasing Agent তাঁরা
Assistant Regional Controller এর হাতে তুলে দেন অর্থাৎ গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছ থেকে
৬৮ টাকা দাম পাবেন মোটে। আর তাঁরা কমিশন স্বরূপ নেবেন তার পরশা এবং godown এ ধান

তুমে দিচ্ছেন বজ্জ নেবেন বার পরসা। সেটা কি চাৰীয়া আনছে, না, তিনি আনছেন? আমি বলি ঐ তিন আনা পরসা চাৰীয়া পকেটে যাওয়া উচিত। আমি জানা করি মন্ত্রীমহাশয় সেক্রেটারীর লিখিত রিপোর্ট না পড়ে, তিনি মৌখিক বলবেন এই তিন আনা পরসা কে পাবেন, কৃষক, না, D. P. A. ? আমি আর কিছু বলতে চাই না।

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we tabled cut motions a month and a half back, little did we know that we would have to discuss these cut motions again today as last year under the shadow of a riot. The atmosphere outside this House is so dark that it is really ridiculous to indulge in the luxury of cut motions and waste public money over cut motions and press upon the hard and callous Ministry matters to which Government would turn a deaf ear by reading out irrelevant speeches or indulging in manuscript eloquence. Therefore, Sir, I do not want today to go into the details of the boat construction policy except to say that this is an incident which is sufficient to bring the whole Government to the dock. If there is any single incident of which the Government is guilty and for which they should be tried forthwith, it is this incident—the incident that has flooded the whole country with a deluge of corruption. But, Sir, even to recite the classical story of corruption and to say that the loss really would be to the extent of Rs.3 crores instead of Rs.1,71,00,000 as shown in the Red Book or to say that the contractors were near relations of the Ministers themselves or to say that the contract form was deliberately modified at the Government Solicitor's Office just to exempt the contractors from the operation of the ordinary law, it would be futile to raise these points, Sir, in the atmosphere in which we are discussing the budget today. When, Sir, our brothers and sons are falling victims to the assassin's knife, when our daughters and sisters are in constant fear of being ravished, it is ridiculous, if not preposterous, to discuss about one anna going to the coffers of officers or two annas going to the coffers of procurement agents. I shall refer you, Sir, to one passage in that memorable Homeric epic of Iliad. When Achilles slew Hector and Hector's body was taken away by Achilles his father King Priam, had to go out at the instance of weeping Andromache and seek the favour of Achilles on bended knees to get back the body of Hector just to protect it from further desecration. Can you imagine, Sir, what feelings rankled in Priam's breast when he went and begged the body of his own son on bended knees? If you realise that, you will be able to appreciate the feeling that is rankling in our breasts today. It is futile to move cut motions now. It is very significant that the Ministry want our co-operation when trouble has started but they do not know what it means to provoke people by their irresponsible statements. I say, Sir, that when trouble has started and when things have gone far, it is no more time for cooing or wooing or for cuts and scratches. What is wanted today, Sir, is a radical amputation of the cancerous growth that infests the Treasury benches today.

Mr. A. W. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to official reports the rice crop this year has been better than normal in most districts and certainly better than the crop last year. In spite of this fact, however, a dangerous situation has developed with regard to the food situation, and it is no less dangerous because it appears to be artificial. Since the beginning of the year the price of rice in many districts has been steadily rising at a time when it should be falling, and at present, prices are at a level which must be causing serious hardship to the consumer in those districts. Procurement by Government to meet their rationing and distribution responsibilities has not been satisfactory.

A number of factors are apparently responsible for this situation but the most important, in our opinion, are smuggling out of surplus areas and indeed out of the Province and hoarding. Hoarding has been influenced by two factors: firstly, owing to the high prices received for jute, and also to some extent to the reckless distribution of relief, the holding power of

the cultivator has been increased, particularly in the jute-growing districts, and secondly, the cultivator and the trader have been encouraged to hoard by the knowledge that Government do not possess adequate stocks to throw on the market. The supply position for this year is also over-shadowed by the fact that whereas at the beginning of 1946 Government possessed 350,000 tons of rice stocks, at the beginning of this year their stocks were very near exhaustion.

It has been suggested in certain quarters that the proper course to take in these circumstances is to remove all controls and restore free trade within the Province. We are of the opinion that it would be disastrous to adopt this course and we are strongly opposed to it. We believe its effect would be:—

- (1) stocks would continue to be withheld;
- (2) prices would rise still higher;
- (3) Government procurement would virtually cease; and
- (4) famine conditions would develop in deficit areas because Government would not be able to send supplies to those areas.

In our opinion controls should not be removed until rice imports from Burma and other places are resumed on a sufficient scale to meet any shortage, or alternatively until rice production in this Province is adequate to meet the needs of the Province.

In our opinion, in the absence of imports, the only possible answer to the present situation is intensified procurement. Government procurement was not adequate last year—in fact it was so inadequate that the rice ration had to be cut temporarily. It is even less adequate this year. It is inadequate not because of the controls, but because the controls are insufficient and ineffective. Government procurement will only succeed in so far as it approximates to monopoly procurement as recommended by the Woodhead Commission and by the Government of India. The extent of smuggling and hoarding which has been going on is clear evidence that Government controls are not effective. In common with other honourable members we would like to see controls removed as soon as possible, but to do so when there is shortage and when the extent of procurement depends upon controls, would be fatal.

In the first place the cordoning system must be strengthened. The number of cordoning parties must be very greatly increased, and they must be properly equipped with transport and arms and the areas of their operations revised. We would suggest also that the cordoning staff should be brought under the control of the District Magistrate and that all the District Officers should co-operate in ensuring the enforcement of the cordoning system. In our opinion, the Civil Supplies Department has been working too much in isolation as a separate entity. This is dangerous with a department whose staff consists so largely of temporary officers, and it would, in our opinion, discourage inefficiency and dishonesty if this temporary staff was brought under the control and supervision of the ordinary district administration.

In the second place the Foodgrains Control Order must be strictly enforced. Government committed a dangerous error last year by increasing the number of traders' licences and extending the area of their operations. This error has now been corrected, but not before a good deal of damage has been done. Government must surely realise that the two systems—Government procurement approximating to monopoly procurement and private trade—cannot exist side by side. It is also most important that the existing provision for licensing cultivators with holdings of over 25 acres in extent, should be strictly enforced. Our information is that this has not been done. Very few large cultivators have, in fact, taken out licences, and there have been no prosecutions against those cultivators who have neglected to do so. It is obvious, however, that if Government are to have

an accurate picture of the food position in the Province and if hoarding is to be checked, this provision must be strictly enforced. We would, in fact, urge Government not only to enforce this provision, but to extend it to cultivators with holdings of 10 acres or more. Government must have correct information of the stocks in the hands both of the cultivator and the trader, and so long as they do not have this information they are not equipped to deal with hoarding and the position is dangerous. Government should, in our opinion, waste no time in appointing a special licensing staff to undertake this task.

To sum up, we consider that Government must take immediate steps to intensify the procurement of rice. At present Government do not possess adequate stocks to send to deficit areas to bring down prices, nor are they in fact able to procure rice in surplus areas at reasonable prices. The only answer is an intensified campaign of procurement, and we consider that not only the Procurement Officers, but all Government officers and every available agency should be enlisted to increase procurement. The whole position is very serious—millions of people may go hungry if Government fail in their obligations—and we hope therefore that the Hon'ble Minister will make a full statement of the measures which he proposes to take to increase procurement, and so maintain an equitable distribution throughout the Province.

Mr. HASSAN ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not speak on various robberies and jobberies and malpractices and wrong-doings and corrupt practices, misdeeds of commissions and omissions of the Civil Supply Department in general. People of Bengal particularly the poor peasantry have been practically tired of the so-called controls which have brought them almost to the very verge of death. There has been a general feeling and outcry in the country that controls should altogether be abolished. The war has ceased, why control will not go, we do not understand. A thorough enquiry should have been made by this time by Government as to whether and how control should be done away with. I wonder why no attempt has yet been made by Government in this direction. Better late than never. Government must at once examine the matter and declare the result of the examination thereof.

Now, Sir, regarding the policy of procurement and distribution of food-grains it has been an unfathomable mystery to us. Formerly the purchase of foodgrain was through different Chief Agents. It has been abolished and direct procurement has been introduced in its place. Why is this change? What is the policy behind it? The Budget statement does not show anything clearly. Is the direct procurement for the benefit of the people or for the benefit of the Government or for the benefit and worship of the modern Goddess of the cult of corruption, or is it for the benefit of the big businesses, the favoured children of the Capital?

We for ourselves have found that the policy behind this direct procurement has been nothing but to encourage brutally unrestricted corruption among the host of people whose business has been hitherto nothing but making money by exploitation of the poor and helpless.

Sir, Loss on Procurement Operations in the previous year 1945-46 has been shown in the budget to be Rs. 2 crores and a quarter, and in 1946-47, that is, in the current year, a little less than 2 crores and a half, and in the coming year the estimate is one crore and a half. The coming year's decrease is due to a decrease of one crore of rupees on account of the abandonment of Boat Construction Scheme. Then, where is the improvement by direct procurement, I do not follow.

The loss on account of supply of foodstuff to Government employees at concession rates is 31 lakhs of rupees. Why is this distinction made between one section of the people and another? Besides, Government employees get dearness allowances to meet the high prices of the foodstuff and other

essential necessities of life. This sort of double favour should no longer exist in my opinion. This is one of the elements of allurements for Government jobs which has attracted our young men of education to flock to the Government offices, particularly to the Civil Supply Offices, leaving aside most important nation-building jobs. Maulvis left madrasahs, masters left schools and the educational institutions of the country are going on without men to teach.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. BIR BIRSHA: মানবীর সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি গরীব মানুষ, এই Assembly House-এ এসেছি গরীবদের পক্ষ থেকে, তাই তাদের দুঃখদুশ্শা সম্বন্ধে দুই একটা কথা বলব মনে করছি, কিন্তু কি বা জানি যে বলব?

আমি লতি সাধারণ মানুষ তাই সাধারণভাবে একটা কথা বলছি, যেমন কাঁচা হেলে না কাঁদলে কিছু দুঃখ-দার পায় না তেমনি চাষীরা লক্ষ্য করে তাদের দুঃখদুশ্শার কথা প্রকাশ করতে না পারায় সকল দুঃখ-দুঃখিনী মতে তারা বঞ্চিত।

আমাকে এখানে গরীবরাই পাঠিয়েছে যেমনি করে, আমি তাদের দুঃখের কথা বা বলছি একটু মন দিয়ে শুনুন এবং বুঝুন।

আমরা হেলবেলা হতে শব্দ কট করেই আসি; কিন্তু দুঃখদুশ্শা কিছু পাই না। আমরা গরু-বাছুর রাখি কিন্তু সময় সময় সে গরু কারণ অকারণে ধানায় ধরে নিয়ে যায় এবং ১৪১৫ দিন পর্যন্ত আটক রাখে তার কোন প্রতিকার নাই। আমরা গরীব মানুষ খাবারের অভাবে সকালে উঠে পচাশুধুরের রক্ত কমলের পেঁড়ো আর বন কচু বন জল ইত্যাদির সম্বন্ধে বার হয়। আমরা এই খেয়ে কোন রকমে জীব-জন্তুর মত বেঁচে আছি কিন্তু আমাদের কেউ দেখে না। আমাদের না আছে একটা স্কুল না আছে কোন কবিরাজ বিপদে আপদে কেউ ভিজ্ঞান্য করে না বা দেখে না।

যদি কখনও মাদমদেহের S. D. O. বা Circle Officer আমাদের ওখানে যান তিনি কারো দেখা পান না কারণ দিনের বেলায় তো কেউ বাড়ীতে থাকে না কেউ যায় রক্ত কমলের পেঁড়ো তুলতে কেউ যায় বন কচু তুলতে। কারণ এইতো তাদের বেঁচে থাকবার সম্বল। কিন্তু তারা কিরে আসেন এই মনে করে যে এদের বুঝি কোন কিছু প্রয়োজন হয় না।

এখন আমরা কাপড়, চোপড়, নুন, তেল ইত্যাদির জন্য কত কট পাখি তার কথা আর কি বলব?

মন্ত্রিসভাসভার কাছে জানাবি যে আমাদের অনেকের বাড়ীতে গরু, বলদ আছে কিন্তু জমি নাই চাষের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। তাই আমরা নিরুশ্বার হয়ে ঐ বন কচু আর বন জল উপর নির্ভর করে আছি। আমরা না খেলেও কেউ দেখে না খেলেও কেউ দেখে না। আমাদের গরীবদের উপর হাতে আপনাদের একটু নজর পড়ে এই অনুরোধ করছি। যদি আমাদের নিজের গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের না দেখে তাহলে সে গভর্ণমেন্ট থাকবে কেন? আজ এই বলে আমি শেষ করলাম।

Mr. SYED SERAJAL HAQUE: Sir, under the head "85-A, etc." which is a capital head, I find that the net expenditure for 1943-44 under grain purchase scheme was Rs.27.25 crores; as against this the net figures booked under this head in 1944-45 and 1945-46 were Rs.2.03 and Rs.8.41 crores respectively. The revised budget for the year 1946-47 however shows a net recovery of Rs.6.24 crores as against Rs.60 crore estimated in the revised budget. This would show definitely unreliable preliminary budgeting. The budget estimate for 1947-48 now provides for another sum of Rs.4.35 cores as recovery of expenditure.

I want an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that the head "Loss on sale of subsidised food" is not a camouflage to conceal the loss of stock rather than loss actually occasioned by differences in the purchase price and sale price. It would be interesting to find out what proportion of the figures, namely, Rs.2.25 crores in 1945-46, Rs.2.45 crores estimated for 1946-47 and Rs.1.51 crores estimated for 1947-48 would really represent the

actual loss due to this factor and what proportion would be due to actual loss of stock. If anything, so far as the selling rates prevalent now are concerned, I think, there should be a margin of profit to the Government.

In this connection, I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the growing public dissatisfaction against the policy of the Government in allowing non-Bengalees to handle the bulk of business under the Civil Supplies Department. For historical reasons well-known to this House, the Bengalees have lost much of the ground to outsiders in business, trade and industry. But, is it not the duty of this Government to ensure that the people of this Province will have at least their legitimate share in the profits which are directly paid by the people of this Province?

Mrs. ASHALATA SEN : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, গণপুর্ণমেন্টের Procurement Policyর আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে অনেকেই অনেক কথা বলেছেন, আর আমার সময়ও বেশী নয় তাই বেশী কথা বলবো না সংক্ষেপে দুই চারটি কথাই বলব। আমরা দিনের পর দিনই দেখছি যে গণপুর্ণমেন্ট যে policy অবলম্বন করেছেন তার ভিতর দিয়ে জনসাধারণের দুঃখদুর্দশা মোচনের কোন রকম সুব্যবস্থাই হচ্ছে না। বছরের পর বছর দিনের পর দিন চলে যাচ্ছে, আমরা যারা জনসাধারণের ভিতর গ্রামে গ্রামে ঘুরি তারা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে তাদের দুর্দশা ক্রমে বেড়েই চলেছে। একমাস পূর্বে এই Houseএ প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহাশয় আশ্বাস দিয়েছিলেন যে বাংলার পুনরায় দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি হওয়ার কোন আশঙ্কা নেই। কিন্তু একমাস পরে আমরা কি দেখতে পাচ্ছি? আমরা তো দেখতে পাচ্ছি দিনের পর দিন সর্বত্র চালের দাম বেড়েই যাচ্ছে বিশেষ করে ঢাকা জেলায় ২৬ টাকা থেকে ৩০ টাকা পর্যন্ত চালের মণ হয়েছে। আমরা যদি কেউ অভিযোগ জানাই বা বলি তা' হ'লে সরকার থেকে বলা হয় Civil Supply থেকে ধান, চাল সরবরাহ করা হচ্ছে, হাটে হাটে ধান ও চাল supply করবার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, আমাদের যা' করবার তা করেছে ইত্যাদি। বাস্তবিক পক্ষে আমরা যে খবর পেয়েছি তাতে মূল্যগণ্য মহুকমায় মাত্র আটটি হাটে ধান সরবরাহ করা হয়েছে, এবং প্রতি পরিবারে সপ্তাহে মাত্র ধান ৭৫ সের করে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হ'য়েছে। এইতো সরকারের সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা! এই রকমভাবে যদি ব্যবস্থা করা হয় তাতে কি করে মানুষের জীবন রক্ষা করতে পারা যায়, আজকাল যে দিকে তাকাই সেই দিকেই দেখি সমস্ত জিনিসেরই দাম অসম্ভব বেড়ে যাচ্ছে কিন্তু সস্তা হ'য়েছে শুধু মানুষের জীবন। আজ কোথাও মানুষের জীবনেরই শুধু কোন মূল্য নাই। বাংলার সর্বত্র হিন্দু মুসলিম জনসাধারণ কিভাবে মৃত্যুর মুখে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে সে দিকে কারও লক্ষ্য নাই। সম্প্রতি লোহজংএ Civil Supply র মন্ত্রীমহাশয় নাকি বলে এসেছেন কুমার যে হাটী গড়ে তার মধ্যে কত হাটী ভেঙ্গে যায়, মানুষও সেরকম কিছ' মরবেই। ক্ষুধার্ত জনসাধারণের কাছে কি চমৎকার আশ্বাস বাণী! সামান্য হাটী পাতিলের সঙ্গে মানুষের জীবনের তুলনা করতে তাঁর কিছুমাত্র বাঁধন না এটা হতেই বোঝা যায় ক্ষমতা খার হাতে মানুষের অমূল্য জীবনের দাম তাঁর কাছে কতটুকু! এটা বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় মানুষের জীবনকে এত তুচ্ছ জ্ঞান করেছেন যে মানুষের জীবনকে একটা অতি তুচ্ছ মাটির পাত্রের মত সস্তা করে দেখেছেন! এখানে যারা হিন্দু ও মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করেন তাঁদের বলছি, তাঁরা জনসাধারণের ভোটে প্রতিনিধিত্ব হ'য়ে এসেছেন, এখন তাদের কাছে কি আশা ও আশ্বাসের বাণী তাঁরা নিয়ে যাবেন? তারা বুঝাই আশা করে পাঠিয়েছে যে আমাদের দিগে তাদের অনেক কিছু উপকার হবে, কিন্তু বাস্তবিক কিছুই উপকার হবার সম্ভাবনা নাই। ওবুও আমি বলি সরকার controlএ ব্যবস্থা করেন অথচ control দরে পল্লী অঞ্চলে চাল পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না, তাই হয় সরকার গ্রামে গ্রামে ration এর ব্যবস্থা করুন না হয় ঘাটতি জেলাগুলিকে বাড়তি জেলা হতে ধান ও চালের অবাধ আমদানী করার অধিকার দিয়ে তাদের পাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করে দিন, এ কথা বিশেষ করেই বলছি, যে সরকার "নৌকার এক পা, ডাল্লার এক পা" এই নীতি পরিহার করে হয় নৌকা থেকে পা তুলুন, না হয় ডাল্লা থেকে পা তুলুন। অর্থাৎ সরকারের উচিত হয় control ব্যবস্থা উঠিয়ে ঘাটতি জেলাগুলিকে বাড়তি জেলা হতে আমদানীর অধিকার দেওয়া আর না হয় যথেষ্ট আমদানীর ব্যবস্থা করে গ্রামে গ্রামে rationএর ব্যবস্থা করা। পশ্চিম বঙ্গে বীহুড়া, মেদিনীপুর প্রভৃতি জেলার লোক ধানের মণ ৫ টাকা থেকে ৬৮ টাকা পর্যন্ত দরের বেশী আর চাল ১০ টাকা মণ দরের বেশী বিক্রি করতে পারছে না আর এদিকে ঢাকা জেলার ধানের মণ ১৮ টাকা আর ঢালের মণ ২৬ টাকা থেকে ৩০ টাকা পর্যন্ত। এক্ষিণ্ড পূর্ন বল্লের নান্য

জিনার লোক ধান চালা না কিনতে পেরে হাছাকার করছে আর ওদিকে পশ্চিম বেঙ্গলের লোক ধান চালা কম মূল্যে বিক্রি করতে বাধ্য হচ্ছে দুশশাশ্রম হচ্ছে, এই রকম অবস্থা আর কত দিন চলবে? বণীদের হাতে ক্ষমতা রয়েছে তাঁরা যদি স্থানাসন করতে পারেন তা' হলে তাঁদের প্ররম্ভা করতে পারি। আর সেটা সুখের কথা হয়। কিন্তু তা' যে পারছি না সেটাই বুঝে। তাঁদের দিকে বাংলার সমস্ত জনসাধারণ চেয়ে আছে, তারা কি করে বাঁচতে পারে তাঁর ব্যবস্থা তাঁরা করুন, এটা বিশেষ করে তাঁদের বলছি। আমরা গ্রামে গ্রামে হাই ও জনসাধারণের মাঝখানে ঘুরে থাকি কিন্তু তাদের কাছে বলবার মত আশার কথা কিছুই থাকে না। তারা ভাবে আমরা যারা Assembly-তে মেম্বর হ'য়ে এসেছি আমাদের হাতে বহু ক্ষমতা আছে কিন্তু বাস্তবিক আমাদের হাতে তো কোন ক্ষমতা নেই। জনসাধারণ বুঝাই আশা করে আমাদের ঘিরে দাঁড়ায়। এবার তারা তাদের দুঃখ দুশশার কথা বলতে আসলে শৃঙ্খলা এই কথাই বলবে আমাদের যা' সাধে ছিল বলে এসেছি। সরকার যদি কিছু বিধিত না করেন আমরা কি করতে পারি? তাই সরকারকে ও মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে বিশেষ করে অনুরোধ করছি যে তাদের উপর যে দায়িত্বভার রয়েছে তাঁর সদ্যব্যবহার করে মানুষকে তাঁরা বাঁচাবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। আজ যে ব্যবস্থার ফলে সমস্ত জিনিষেরই মূল্য ২৫% বাড়ে আর সব চেয়ে সস্তা হয়েছে শৃঙ্খলা মানুষের জীবন, সেই নিত্যন্ত হুমকীজনক ব্যবস্থার অবিসম্বে পরিবর্তন করুন।

Mr. Md. ABDULLAH BAQUI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি প্রায়ই কথা বলতে চেষ্টা করি না। কারণ প্রথমতঃ এখানে কোন কথা বলার যে সাধকতা আছে, তা আমি মনে করি না। দ্বিতীয়তঃ কথাটা কার্যকরী করার জন্য আমাদের ও ধারের ব্যপ্তি বা করতে পারেন, এখানে থেকে আমাদের তাও করবার উপায় নাই। (A voice -- সত্যি নাকি?) ইরানের একজন কাঁচ বলেছেন—

رفیق تا بدم هر کجا که می نگرم
کرشمه دامن دل می کشد که جانبدار است

অর্থাৎ প্রিয়তমের মাথার সর্পিখ থেকে পারের পাড়া পর্যন্ত যে জেলের দিকে তাকাই না কেন তারই সৌন্দর্য্য মনের অশ্রুত আকর্ষণ করে বলে, আমাদেরই দেখা করির প্রিয়তমা সম্বন্ধে এট বর্ণনা কতদূর সত্য তা আমার জানা নাই, কিন্তু আমাদের Civil Supply বিভাগ সম্বন্ধে এই উক্তি যে বর্ণে বর্ণে সত্য তা আমি স্বীকার করছি।

Civil Supply এর বিভিন্ন বিভাগের গুল ও রসের বণনায় মি: সিও এবং অন্যান্য বহুগণ যতই ব্যস্ততা ঘটিত করুন না কেন, তার শতাব্দের এক অংশও কীটন করতে পারেন না। (Hear, hear.) এই বিভাগের procurement, distribution, enforcement, movement ইত্যাদি এবং তার অঙ্গপ্রত্যঙ্গ A থেকে Z পর্যন্ত ইরাকী বণমালার সমস্ত অঙ্গের হাছাদের পরিচয় দিতে কথেন্ট নয় — R. C. P., A. R. C. P., D. C., S. D. C., Inspector, এবং তার বিভিন্ন প্রকার (A voice—C. S. P. C. A.) এট সমস্তের গুল বর্ণনা করা এই অংশ সমস্তের মধ্যে আমার পক্ষে সম্ভবপর নয়। সেইজন্য এই বিভাগের কেবল control সম্বন্ধে কিছু নিবেদন করতে চাচ্ছি। তার বেশী বোধ হয় আমার সময়ও হবে না। হয়ত এই কন্ট্রোল করবার সময় গভর্ণমেন্টের একটা সদ্ব্যবস্থা ছিল। আর control উঠে গেলে দ্রুত কিছু অসুবিধা আমাদেরকে ভোগ করতে হবে। কিন্তু এই কন্ট্রোল পরিকল্পনের মর্চমার এমন অবস্থা হয়েছে যে এট control যে জিনিসকে স্পর্শ করেছে, সেই জিনিসই কেবল দুশশ্যই হয়নি, একদম দুশত হয়ে গেছে (Hear, hear.) প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের বলেছিলেন যে কন্ট্রোল তুলে দিলেও জিনিস লাওরা যায় না। আমাদের দেশে একটা কথা আছে যে বাঘে হুঁলে সারতে আটার মাস লাগে; আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট বাঘের চেয়ে নিশ্চয়ই বেশী লজ্জা-শলী। সুতরাং তাঁরা হুঁলে সারতে আটার-দুগুণে ড্রিশ মাস লাগা মোটেই বিচিত্র নয়। তথ্যটি আমি তাঁদের কাছে নিবেদন করছি তাঁরা যদি এটা তুলে দেন, তাহলে দেশের অনেক কল্যাণ করবেন। (Hear, hear.) অসাব্যতা, অবাচার, উৎকাত ইত্যাদি পৃথিবীতে আগেও ছিল। কিন্তু এই বিভাগের কল্প্যাপে এইসব যেমন ব্যাপক ও সাবভবনীয় হয়েছে তেঁদে নিজেজ্ঞাভাবে এবং প্রকাশ্যে প্রচলিত হয়েছে, আমি মনে করি এমন আর কখনও হয়নি (Hear, hear.) অনেক বহু একথা বলেছেন যে এ বিভাগের সংশোধন করবার উপায় নাই, আমার সময় নাই detail এ যেতে পারব না। আমার নিজেরও এ

বিষয়ে ভিত্তি অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। কিন্তু সে সবেৰ উল্লেখ না করে বলতে চাই যে আমার মতে Supply বিভাগের অন্যতরের প্রতিকার করবার কোন উপায় নাই তার সংশোধনেরও কোন আশা নাই। আমার পক্ষে cut motion সমর্থন করা অবৈধ, সুতরাং সে চেষ্টা না করে আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে বিনীত অনুরোধ করছি কন্স্ট্রাক্শনের যদি কিছু মজল থাকে সে মজল আর আমরা চাই না। যথেষ্ট মজল করেছেন। (Hear, hear.) আপনারা এইবার অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদিগকে আপনারদের এই অনুগ্রহ হাতে রেখাই দিন। (A voice—আমাদের বাঁচাবার জন্যটার থেকে বাঁচান।)

Mr. SPEAKER: Maulana Saheb, your time is up.

Mr. Md. ABDULLAHEL BAQUI: আমি শেষ করছি। আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে এই কথা বলতে চাই যে কন্স্ট্রাক্শনের অনুগ্রহ হতে যদি আপনারা আমাদিগকে মুক্তি দেন, তাহলে আপনারদের কাছে কেবল আমরা কুতল হব না কন্স্ট্রাক্শনের মহিমার সম্রাটাবে, বস্রাটাবে, ঔষধাটাবে যারা কবরে গিয়েছে—যাওয়ার সময় ককিনের কাপড় পরান্ধি যারা পায় নাই—তাদের আত্মাও আমাদিগকে কুতলতা জানাবে, আর আপনারদের মন্ত্রীত্বের স্থায়ীত্বের জন্য দোয়া করবে। (Hear, hear.) (a voice—তার আগে যদি তাদের পদত্যাগ করান তাহলে আরও ভাল হয়।)

(Mr. Mudassir Hossain rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mudassir Hossain, please finish in two minutes.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Government must recognise that the days of chivalry, the days of generosity, the days of conferring boons are gone, gone forever to come no more. These are the days of cool economists, hard calculators and political philosophers. Now, Sir, if we consider in this background the whole procurement policy of Government, I denounce it at once. There is no policy whatsoever behind it. The procurement policy is based on the policy of exploitation and putting premium on black-marketing, bribery and jobbery. Now, Sir, what is this procurement policy? (Cries of "looting", "looting"). Every one knows that the transactions are carried on by laws of supply and demand, that is to say, the price of every article is fixed according to the law of supply and demand. That is the economic law.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Five minutes more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: A member of the European Group said that smuggling is going on. Why this smuggling is going on merrily. The reason is that just in the bordering districts you see the price prevailing is eight to nine rupees per maund for paddy, and sixteen to seventeen rupees for rice; we are paying only six rupees and four annas for paddy. Are they not entitled to get more? Certainly it is the economic law and no law can control the demand.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I am sorry I cannot allow you any more time.

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir. At the outset let me tell the honourable members of this House that neither at Lohajang nor at any other place I made a statement like this "কুলাব বে হাতি গড়ে তার মধ্যে কত হাড়ী ভৈসে যায়, মানুষও সে রকম কিছু মরবেই।" It is absolutely incorrect. Mrs. Ashalata Sen was never present there. It is absolutely false. I never made a statement like this. You know it full well that many such false propaganda is being made by my friends on the opposite (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: What about that side?)

Regarding the statement made that I told the cultivators that if they brought their produce at the direct procurement centre or at the Government godowns they will certainly get Rs.6-4 (A VOICE: but they are not getting that). I may state that the position is this, that they will have to supply the bags to us, if they did not, they will get one anna less.

Regarding condoning and control, if control is removed at present the situation will be disastrous.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJI: Disastrous for whom? For you, your officers, or the profiteers?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: In 1943 people died in very large numbers, not because there was control, but for want of money. There was food in the country but the poor people could not procure it and purchase it for want of money. My friends on the opposite and my friends who are supporting the cut motions are the merchants and they did not sell the commodities to the poor people, and that was the cause why people died in such large numbers.

As regards corruption, I may tell my honourable friends that there is corruption. It is said by everybody that there is corruption. I have all along said that if there is a specific allegation let me know of it, and if proof be available I am ready to take drastic action.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJI: Is it not your duty to detect corruption in your Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL COFRAN: If there is a strong suspicion against an officer, but there is not enough evidence for getting conviction in a criminal court, well I am willing to tell that friend of mine "Well, my friend, I have no use for you, please go away". My friends never come forward with specific cases before me and in the meantime we have started a number of prosecutions. Even now there are 58 cases pending in criminal courts and 31 cases pending investigation.

Then Mr Taylor has suggested that the co-operation of the District Magistrates should be sought in matters of condoning and procurement and he has also made certain other suggestions. I may tell him that we have already taken these steps so that procurement might be made:

Area and number of Food Grain Control Order Licences have been restricted.

Patrol parties have been increased in number both for looking after the provincial borders with Bihar and for internal cordons.

Other departments of Government have agreed to make more launches available to the Civil Supply Department to patrol riverine areas.

After conducting tests the milling differential for Dinapur mills has been increased and mills have started delivery.

Increase in number of local D. P. agents is being made in all areas.

Government will not hesitate to use all their legal powers to obtain possession of any hoarded stocks that speculators and middlemen may accumulate.

I give this warning to my honourable friends because so far as I know it is my honourable friends opposite who are hoarding a very large quantity of rice and paddy. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: In the Civil Supply godown.) If it is in the Civil Supply godown it will certainly be made available for the use of the people.

One point, I think, requires a bit of elucidation and that is this. The rise of prices in the deficit districts within so short a period after the harvest cannot be due to want of physical stocks of rice and paddy in those regions. The fact however remains that grain is not flowing easily into the *hats* and

markets of those districts and only very limited quantities are coming and selling at high prices. Cultivators are obviously holding out in the hope of selling in a rising market, but this is not all. The great publicity given in the newspapers and on the platform regarding the unhappy position of the overall food position, both in India and in other countries, has resulted in a general lack of confidence amongst the cultivators in deficit areas not only in Bengal but in Bihar also. One contributory cause of high price is due to the cultivators keeping sufficient reserves against bad days which, they fear, may overtake them later in the year. The fact that the cultivator is able to hold on to stocks and is not forced to sell the bulk of his surplus in the markets of the deficit areas may be ascribed to a slight improvement in his holding power in East Bengal owing to the better price that they have obtained for jute this year. The prices in the procurement regions which are cordoned are well within the purchasing price of Government; but as the system of procurement is based on voluntary offers to Government at their purchasing price,—

(The Hon'ble Minister at this stage having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Re.1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" be reduced by one anna was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Re.1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" be reduced by one anna was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bimal Chandra Sinha that the demand of Re.1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" be reduced by one anna was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Gofran that a sum of Re.1 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-13 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 29th March, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 29th March, 1947, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 179 members.

Obituary.

MR. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, we have learnt the very shocking news, from this morning's papers, of the death of Professor Abdul Bari of Bihar, who was once the Deputy Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. So far as is known to me he was one of the leading personalities of that Province, one of the labour leaders and he led a very humble life and dedicated his life to the cause of mass amelioration. I hope it is the desire of the House that a message of condolence be sent to the bereaved family and I request the members to signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(The members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. The Secretary will take necessary action.

Point of privilege regarding issue of Pass to members for curfew hours.

MR. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of privilege, Sir. Last night, early part of the last night, a certain member of this House was very ill which necessitated my going out to non-curfew areas for getting some medicine for him. While returning home from that area to our area—Entally—I was challenged by the local police on duty, and after a lot of cross-examinations, it was 7-20, and we were given to understand that curfew was to start from 7-30 (series of "No, No," 7 o'clock), I was allowed to proceed. My point is this: can it be possible for you, Sir, to make contact with the Commissioner of Police and the Commandant of the Army, and see that the cards issued by you be taken as passes for the members of the legislature, to enable them to go out during curfew hours, if they are compelled by circumstances to do so?

MR. SPEAKER: All right I shall look into the matter. I do not know the rules, but I shall contact the Commissioner of Police.

MR. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Sir, I applied to the Commissioner of Police for a permit that in case of necessity I may have to go out to the disturbed areas to pacify the crowd, but I was refused that permit. I put the matter before the Hon'ble Chief Minister. I do not know what is the result, but I say that certain members should be allowed to go out in the disturbed areas to pacify the rioters and all those sorts of things.

MR. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: In this connection I would tell the House some of my personal experiences during the last riot. The Commissioner of Police refused to issue any pass and said "I have no pass in my hand; how can I issue any pass?" Sir, you have issued a certain type of card for the members. If he recognises that card as a permit for the curfew hours that will serve the purpose of all.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yesterday Government assured us that they would take drastic steps to put an end to the communal troubles. I want to know the real position now. I am in possession of certain facts. These facts are also known to them, but I want to know the real position.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I am not in possession of up-to-date facts, so I am unable to give this information. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has not yet come; perhaps he is busy with moving about the city and seeing if the situation has improved or not and trying to make an appreciation of the up-to-date position. If he arrives I shall communicate the request of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and I am sure he will be able to make a statement giving the required information.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, before we take up the business of the House, I would like to know certain facts from the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, if he is pleased to give out those facts. My question is: we are passing these demands for grants on the assumption that certain sums would be made available by the Central Government. In his budget speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that these sums would be shown as short-term debts, but unless subvention is given by the Central Government, the position of the Government of Bengal will be difficult. Certain facts have been stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in Central Assembly—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your speech will be more relevant when we come to that particular demand.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, my point is: we are now closing the budget discussion. Unless we are in a position to know whether these sums would be made available, we cannot say that the Government of Bengal will be in a position to finance many of the grants, if guillotine falls today. It will be profitable for the House to know what is the position. There is one other fact which I would like to know. If I understood him aright, the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that in future years the Central Government might be attaching certain conditions to subvention, but certain information has been given out in the Central Assembly, and we have also learnt that the Central Government has attached conditions not only to the subvention for meeting the deficit, but also to grants to meet outright the financing of Development projects. I do not know whether it is true. I think the House would be benefited if the Hon'ble Finance Minister would disclose the facts before the budget is finally passed today.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will remember this in giving his reply.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, I want to know whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister will be at all coming. If he is not coming, he should be sent for because we want to know the latest situation.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The Deputy Leader will probably realise that it is very difficult to contact the Chief Minister. We do not know where he may be. He is moving from place to place. So, it would be very difficult either to send a messenger to contact him or to get him over the 'phone because he is moving in the streets of Calcutta. It is expected that he will come here before we rise and he may be in a position to make a statement as requested by the Deputy Leader.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We want the latest condition to be reported before we disperse today. We shall be dispersing in the course of an hour or an hour and a half.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I can say this. Even if the Hon'ble Chief Minister fails to turn up, that is to say, if his presence is required elsewhere and he cannot come to the House, I shall try to get the latest information and give it to the House.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 3,16,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax".

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, may I know what would happen to my request? Is the Hon'ble Minister going to make some statement on the question that I have raised or will he not be replying on that point?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I do not like to discuss that position now. The honourable member should have raised that question earlier during the debate on the budget. But the position is that we have not based our estimates on any subvention from the Centre. We have included in our revenue side certain items of money which we get from the Centre by virtue of the financial arrangement between the province and the Centre, e.g., a certain percentage of the pite tax under the Niemeyer Award and a certain percentage of the income-tax and things like that. That money should not be treated as *ex-gratia* subvention but that is a money which is due to Bengal under the present financial arrangement between the province and the Centre and as that money we are bound to get, there is no question of a special head being provided in the budget for subvention.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: What about the 16 crores grant for financing the development projects?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We have no information that that money is not forthcoming. But the only condition, as the honourable member pointed out, is that all our development projects are subject to the approval of the Government of India and the schemes we have taken up and which have been sanctioned have been done with the approval of the Government of India. Unless we got that approval we could not go ahead with the development projects.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Does that condition include something like this, viz., the financial resources of the province are adequately exploited and safeguarded and that in important matters of all-India policy the province should not do anything to impede development on the lines approved by the Government of India with the concurrence of the majority of the provinces? Are those included there?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know. I have not got the papers with me. But this much I can say that one of the conditions is that the schemes will have to be approved by the Government of India and the schemes we have taken up or those we propose to take up are all approved by the Government of India.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Approved beforehand or subject to approval from time to time? Is there any process of continuance in it?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has made it sufficiently clear. Unless the Government of India approves the schemes, there will be no money forthcoming. The Government of India has approved the schemes.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARI: With your permission, Sir, I beg to move, on behalf of my friend, Mr. Provash Chandra Lahiry, that

the demand of Rs. 3,16,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to implement the assurance given by the Finance Minister in the last budget session that the agricultural income would be taxed on actual produce only and not on a flat calculation of average produce, on imagination.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,16,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about grievances in respect of administering of Agricultural Income-tax Act.

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,16,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs. 100. The reason for moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the bad administration of the Agricultural Income Tax Act and Rules and the raising of assessable income to over Rs. 5,000.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I raised this point in the last Budget session and we got the assurance from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he would look into the grievances placed before him, but I am sorry, Sir, to mention that nothing has been done yet as regards the removal of those grievances. I would like to repeat those grievances here again.

Sir, the grievances are manifold and the grievances are due to the misinterpretation of the rules framed under the Act. For example, in Civil Courts and in other courts a cause-list is either hung up or a cause-list is kept in the office wherefrom the lawyers or their clerks can find out the dates for hearing or the dates for making any kind of *tadbir* in connection with cases that are pending. In Agricultural income-tax cases, however, nothing of the kind is done. If anybody wishes to know anything about any case pending, either the lawyer himself has to go or the assessee concerned has to go. Sir, you know that assesses live at distant places distributed over the whole district and it is not possible for any assessee to come every time for such information, nor is it possible for the lawyers to visit every time the Agricultural Income-Tax Office. Therefore, it is easily understood how the lawyers and the assesses are put to trouble and inconvenience. I hope, Sir, something will be done in this behalf.

Then again, there are small incomes which are themselves insignificant but when added together they provide an income which becomes assessable but, as you all know, the minimum income assessable is thereby considered by the Income-tax Officer fit for assessment of income-tax whereby the assesses are again put to difficulties. We know that the expenses for the bare necessities of life for even a low middle-class cultivator will be about Rs. 3,000 per year. So, if for purposes of assessment, income is calculated like that, nothing surplus will remain for paying the income-tax and actually I have seen hard cases where these poor and petty agriculturists had to sell their ornaments, had to sell other properties for meeting the agricultural income-tax.

So, some sort of direction should immediately be issued whereby petty incomes, namely, income from sale of jute sticks, income from 5 or 10 plantain or banana trees, income from one or two mango trees or jack-fruit trees, income from straw should be exempted. We know that we raise *aman* and *aus* crops and the straw that we get in Dinajpur from *aus* has no demand in the market. Still there will be some income assessed for this straw from *aus*. In this way, Sir, the income is highly exaggerated than their real income is and the assessee has to suffer, though in equity he should not have been assessed at all. There are cases decided also that income derived from *hats*, *melas* and fairs should not be assessed under the

Agricultural Income-Tax Act, but I have as a lawyer seen such assessment to be made by many agricultural income-tax officers. It is true that when an appeal is preferred against such assessment they get remedy in the Appellate Court, but they have to undergo the trouble of incurring expenses and other troubles in going to the Appellate Court for this. When there is a decision and when the law does not provide for assessment of such income derived from *hats, melas* and fairs I do not know why the agricultural income-tax officers assess such incomes. The reply may be that the remedy lies in appeal and I have already stated what difficulties and troubles the assessee has to meet in this connection, and I submit that a direction in this regard also may be issued.

I also suggest that Government should consider whether it is possible to raise the maximum assessable income. As I mentioned earlier in my speech even a lower middle class assessee's yearly expenditure would amount to Rs. 3,500. So they have no surplus left after meeting their ordinary ~~expenditure~~ expenditure. Government should consider whether it is desirable to raise the maximum limit of assessable income, as that is also a question which deserves some attention from Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Maximum or minimum?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am sorry. I mean the minimum. Before I resume my seat I would naturally like to enquire as to what happened to the assurance that was held out to us during the last Budget session by the Hon'ble Minister when we raised these very questions in this House. I do not think it will serve any useful purpose by repeating these questions, but we desire some amount of action on the part of Government.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to move the cut motion that is standing in my name. On the other hand, I would make some suggestions with regard to some relief to be given to assessee under section 7 of the Agricultural Income-tax Act. I shall here only refer to the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 which reads as follows: "Provided that in the case of an agricultural income derived from land possessed by an individual or a Hindu undivided family and cultivated by such individual or by the members of such family with or without the aid of servants or hired labourers or of both, the allowance admissible under this clause shall, instead of such cost, be a sum equal to fifty per centum of the market value of the produce raised from such land." Here we find, Sir, that in cases where a land-owner gets his land cultivated through *bargadars* or *adhwars* only 50 per centum of the total market value of the produce is deducted from his total income by way of cost of production. But, Sir, apart from this an assessee under section 7 has to incur in some districts, particularly in North Bengal, many other expenses which in all fairness should be deducted from the income received by him. Sir, these items of expenditure are as follows: Value of seed supplied by the owner of the land. There is a custom in some of the districts that the land-owner has to supply seeds to the *bargadars* or *adhwars*, but this is also not deducted from the total income of the assessee. Then, supervising cost for looking after *khamars* and cultivation. A land-owner has to maintain a staff of officers to supervise *khamars* and cultivation, but this is also not deducted. Then (3) transport cost of agricultural produce from *khamar* to owner's house; (4) expenses of godowns where the produce is kept for some time; (5) transport cost of the produce taken to the market for sale.

We find, Sir, that the Government system is that the producer has to take his produce to the purchasing centre of Government at the cost of the producer, but this is not deducted from the income.

Then, Sir, *sortage* and other incidental charges. In case of sugarcane the higher charges of crushing machinery and pans for preparing *gur*; and any other expenses incurred by the assessee for making the agricultural produce into marketable goods.

Sir, sub-clause (10) of section 7 contemplates that such relief may be given. It says "any other sum which may be prescribed". So such relief as I have proposed may be prescribed in the rules. Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu has already stated some grievances. These are all genuine grievances and I think in all fairness there should be deduction and some consideration made about all these grievances.

Sir, my second grievance is that in case an assessee fails to satisfy the income-tax officer with accounts of his produce, the assessment is made on the basis of the Revenue Commission Report. This, Sir, should not be done. Government have an army of officers to take statistics of crops but nothing is done to this effect and no consideration is given to the report of these officers. So, I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to see that crop-cutting reports are taken into consideration when the assessments are made.

With these words, I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will take into consideration all these grievances.

Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই কৃষি আয়কর আইনের বলে বাংলার কৃষকদের উপর যে হারে কব ধার্য করা হয়েছে তাতে বাংলার কৃষকের শেষ রক্তটুকু পর্যন্ত নিড়ে নেবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে; এর প্রতিবাদেই আমার হুঁচুনিট প্রস্তাব। এর দ্বারা বাংলার এবং বাঙালীর কোন দিত্তসান হয় নাই। আভ্যন্তরীণ দিবে ১,০০০ টাকা অনেক কৃষকই অপেক্ষাকৃত অল্প ধান চাল প্রভৃতি বিক্রয় করে লাভ করেছে। যে সময় কৃষক আগে প্রতি বৎসর সেনার মাঘে বিশৃত ছিল এখনকার এই নর্মালসের দিনের সুবিধা নিয়ে সবে একটি ষাঁড়াবার চেষ্টা করছিল অরুণি তাদের উপর এই আইনের কপাট হানা হয়েছে। এই দুদিনে যখন লক্ষ লক্ষ কৃষক বলে যাচ্ছে, তখন যারা এত অভাবের সাথে লড়েও কোনমতে বেঁচে আছে বাংলা সরকার তাদেরই এই কৃষি আয়কর আইনের মধ্য দিয়ে মারবার চেষ্টা করছে। লীগ মন্ত্রিসভার সব সময়ই *rural bias* ধরা হবে, কিন্তু এই আইনের কবলে ফেলে গ্রাম্য কৃষককুলকে নিমূল করার এমন ব্যবস্থা আর কোথাও দেখা যায় না। *rural bias* এর অপূর্ণ প্রতিবে পশ্চিমই বটে। তাও যদি (Government) ব্যবস্থা করতেন যে কৃষি আয়করের সবটাই কৃষিকার্য বা কৃষকের হিতার্থে ব্যয় হবে তা হ'লেও এর মধ্যে কিছুটা ভাল দেখা যেতে পারতো। সবচেয়ে মজা এই যে শ্রেষ্ঠাক সাম্প্রদায়িক ধর্মীয় জনা চা বাগানের উপর এই কর বধা হয় না। সাম্প্রদায়িকদের সঙ্গে হাত না মেলালে মন্ত্রির সাপাই লয়। বুদ্ধি দেওয়া হয় যে এই আইনটি ভূমিগারের শোষণ বন্ধ হওয়ায় জনাই করা হয়েছে এবং যে সময় চাষী বেশী টাকা উপার্জন করে কিন্তু পরীক্ষার সের না, তাদের থেকে অর্থ আদায়ের জন্য এই কর বসান হয়েছে, কিন্তু আজ এই আইনের পরিচালনার ফলে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে প্রকৃতপক্ষে শ্রেষ্ঠাক চাষীর ওলা কাটার জন্যই এই আইন করা হয়েছে। Flood Commission Report এর উপরই এ কর বসাবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু Flood Commission এর প্রথম সিদ্ধান্ত হ'লে ভবিষ্যতী প্রথা তুলে দেওয়া। দ্বিতীয় সিদ্ধান্ত ছিল যে কৃষি আয়কর কৃষকের সুবিধার জন্য বসান যেতে পারে। লীগের প্রত্যাশার বিরুদ্ধেই ১ম সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করার সুবিধা আজও পান নাই কেন না তাতে নিষেধের স্বার্থে আশঙ্ক লাগবে, কিন্তু পরীক্ষা চাষীদের মারবার ব্যবস্থা পূর্ণতাই সেরে নিয়েছেন। এই সাম্প্রদায়িক বিরুদ্ধেই এক দিকে সাম্প্রদায়িক বিধে বাংলা দেশকে গুণাগুণে পরিণত করছে, অন্য দিকে বাংলার কৃষকদের সর্বনাশ সাধন করছে। এই আইন কিভাবে কার্যকরী করা হচ্ছে তার একটি নমুনা দেখো। এই কর শাখার সময় নিম্নত কর্মচারীরা Government এর কাছে নাম পাঠাব জন্য এমনভাবে tax ধার্য করেন যে তা মোটেই তাঁদের প্রযুক্তি বা সুবিধার পরিচয় নয়। এক কথায় যাকে বলে "arbitrary"। আরাদের হাওয়া জেলায় ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সনে যে assessment ধার্য হয়েছে তাতে বিঘাকরা ৮ মণ ধানের ফসল বধা হয়েছে। ধানের শর বধা হয়েছে ১৪১০ মণ। যে কেউ এ জেলার একটি বধার সাথে যে জানে যে এখানে ধানের ফসল সাধারণতঃ ৫ বধের বেশী হয় না, আর কোন সময়ই এ জেলায় ধানের শর ১৪১০ আনা ছিল না। বিঘাকরা আখের চাষে ২০ মণ গুড় বধা হয়েছে। শর বধা হয়েছে ২৪০০ আনা। এ জেলায় আখের চাষই হয় না। আখের গুড় এ জেলায় লোকে ভৈরবী করতেন জানে না। আলুর চাষের জন্য বিঘাকরা ৪০ মণ; শর বধা হয়েছে ১৪১০ আনা। দ্বারা আলুর চাষের কিছু

খবর বাবে তারা জানে বুঝ বেশী কলম হ'লে কি হ'তে পারে। ৪টা মারিফল গাছে ২০৮, ৫টা পেয়ারা গাছে ১২৮ টাকা, ৪টা আম গাছে ২০৮ টাকা, ২০টা ফলা গাছে ২০৮, ২টা ডাল গাছে ৪৮, ১০টা বেতুগা গাছে ৪০৮ টাকা এবং বাড়ীর পাশে একটি জমিতে শাক সব্জীর চাষের জন্য ৫০৮ টাকা ভর কেনা হয়েছিল। সবাই জানে যে এ সব থেকে কেহই কোন আয়ের আশা করে না। Substitute food হিসাবে চাষী এর উপকাৰিতা পায়, কিন্তু এর থেকে সে কোন দিন লাভের আশা করে না। তা হ'লে কি হয়? শরিফরীম সরকার তা সন্যাস করে কি করে? তাই তার পেট ভরে খাবার ও পরবার ব্যবস্থা না করে তার খেঁকু আছে তাতে সরকারী জাগ না বসালে দীর্ঘ দ্বিবিবরণীর অর্থী ও প্রাণীরা কেমন করে পুট হয়? চাষের পরচের জন্য এর অর্থেক বলা হয়েছে। এক জোড়া গরু পুথতে আঁককের গিলে বড় বড় হয় তার হিসাব কিন্তু সেও না হয় নি। এমন কি জাভা জোবা থেকেও আয় বলা হয়েছে কিন্তু তার লক্ষ্য বাংলাদেশ থেকে বাচাবার শরিফ এঁরা গ্রহণ করেন না। একে agricultural income tax না বদলে death tax বদলে ভাল হত। প্রতি বছর জনসাধারণকে শোষণ করাই এঁদের কাজ, বাঁচান নয়। ১,০০৮ টাকা এইভাবে যে কোন চাষীর আয় বলা যায়, এমন কি যার ২১৩ বিঘা বাগানের জমি আর মানিকটা পতিত জমি আছে তারও এই আয় বলা যায়। এই প্রতি বছর জনসাধারণের শোষণ-নীতির উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত এই যে সরকার—এই সরকারকে আমি আবার অনুরোধ করি যে অমৃত: তাদের আয় ৫,০০৮ টাকার অধিক তাদের উপর কোন আঁককের বসান। তা হ'লে মানিকটা উপকার সাধিত হ'তে পারে। এই আশাতেই আমি এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব এনেছি। আমি জানি এনিও এই দীর্ঘ দ্বিবিবরণী তার ভোটারের শোষণ বাড়িত করে দিতে পারেন। তবুও বনি জা না করে অমৃত: এই বিষয় প্রতি চাষীর প্রতি একটি লক্ষ্যবিন্দু হিসাব হউন। তাদের প্রতি লক্ষ্য দেখান।

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as requested I shall try to be very brief. I will refer only to those main issues that have been raised in the debate. Mr. Nishritha Nath Kundu has stated that there was some amount of hardship caused by the imposition of this tax. It is a fact that there was some hardship in the first year, because the tax was given retrospective effect and, therefore, lot of persons who were assessed found some difficulty in making the first payment. After that as the tax was to be paid out of the surplus profit enjoyed by the assessee the question of any further hardship does not arise. He has said that petty incomes coming from agricultural produce should be exempted, but I can inform the House that by executive instructions we have made the petty incomes from agricultural produce exempt from the operation of the Act. So they are not taken into account as Mr. Kundu has mentioned—I mean income from the sale of jackfruits, mangoes, plantains and other things would be treated as petty incomes and they are not included. So far as the question of raising the minimum level is concerned, I am sure Mr. Kundu will agree with me that it is not possible in the present state of Bengal's finances to give further exemptions. The ordinary income-tax is on a minimum level of Rs.2,000. From the next year it will be Rs.2,500, but the agricultural income-tax is assessed on a level of Rs.3,500. There is a wider range of exemption in the Bengal agricultural income-tax than in the ordinary income-tax.

So far as the question of assessment on the actual production is concerned, members of the House are perhaps aware that most of the agriculturists, *jotedars* and *zemindars* do not keep proper accounts. They are not accustomed to do that. Therefore, there is a great deal of difficulty in arriving at the actual cost incurred by the agriculturists. So Government sometimes have to go on the basis of the actual produce in neighbouring areas or in the neighbouring places, but if actual accounts are submitted to the assessing officers or the income-tax officers they are always accepted. But if the income-tax officer feels that the accounts submitted do not reflect the actual position, then he is to make assessment on the basis of the report regarding the yield of crop per acre. Of course I assure the House the yield of crop would not be determined by the officers on the report of the Commission which was made 10 years ago. They should go on the basis of the actual produce of the year in which the assessment is made. That is, Sir, the instruction which has been issued to the officers.

Mr. Hafizuddin Choudhuri has stated that 50 *per cent.* deduction is only made for cost and no allowance is made for an extra item of expenditure regarding value of seeds and transport, etc. Custom varies from place to place. When the *jotedar* produces crop either by hired labour or by subletting the lands to *bargadars*, he gets 50 *per cent.* of the produce without any cost. That is the practice in many districts. I do not know what is the practice in the district of Dinajpur, but so far as my information goes, the *jotedars* get 50 *per cent.* of the produce without any deduction whatsoever. (Mr. HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURI: That is not a fact.) If the honourable member says it is not a fact, if the assessee produces accounts showing the cost incurred, I am sure, the income-tax officer will take this expenditure into account, and I am prepared to issue instructions accordingly.

Mr. Banerjee has said that this Ministry has a rural bias and yet we have taxed the agriculturists. Sir, I must say that this tax does not affect the actual tillers of the soil who form the bulk of the population of this Province. This tax is levied on those persons who have a surplus profit of 3,500. Therefore the question of taxing the poor does not arise. Sir, it is stated that tea is exempted. That is not a fact. It is not a fact that tea estates of Darjeeling have been exempted from the operation of the Bengal Agricultural Income-tax Act. If he will look at proviso (b) to sub-section 8 of the Act, he will find that 60 *per cent.* of the income from tea estates and tea gardens are assessed under the provisions of the Bengal Agricultural Income-tax Act. Therefore the question of favouritism to British concerns does not arise, because tea estates and tea gardens have been brought under the operation of the provisions of the Bengal Agricultural Income-tax Act.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions and commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Anulya Chandra Adhikary that the demand of Rs. 3,16,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 3,16,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sushil Kumar Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 3,16,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 3,16,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" was then put and agreed to.

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 9,64,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

11—Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. NACENDRA NARAYAN ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 31,02,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 11,56,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation".

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are meeting today under the shadow of a very great calamity. For the last few days recrudescence of the communal trouble has taken place and even today the same thing is going on. At about quarter to nine or 9 a m. in the morning just in front of my Calcutta residence stabbing took place and a friend of mine, a medical practitioner, has been stabbed. Information had been immediately given to the police who came over there at the very spot but did not take any action. If the police had taken action immediately, then they should have been able to arrest the culprits. Further, Sir, our mind is so much engrossed at the present recrudescence of trouble, that we are practically unfit to discuss all these Budget grants at the present moment. However as my motion has been taken up I am moving my cut motion.

Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 11,56,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this to raise a discussion about the delay in the disposal of pending Debt Settlement Board Cases and the necessity of amending the rule authorising representation by pleaders.

Now, Sir, this delay in disposing of the Debt Settlement Board cases had been taken up last year, year before last and even before that. Notice of the Government has been drawn to that but in spite of that those cases are still there pending in large numbers. Before the Debt Settlement Board there are cases still to be disposed of for four or five years and even those cases which have been transferred to the Special Officers from the Debt Settlement Boards, now defunct, are pending before them for about four or five years, and that is also the case before the Appellate Officers, and also District Judges and Additional District Judges for revisional applications. I think, Sir, that these cases could have been expedited and could have been very speedily disposed of, had the pleaders been allowed to appear before the Debt Settlement Boards and also before the Special Officers and also before the District Judges and Additional District Judges, as the case may be, who hear revisional cases.

By section 46 of the Act an impediment has been imposed upon the lawyers to appear before the Debt Settlement Boards and also before Special Officers, and also by section 40A— it is a new section— sub-section (2) an impediment has been imposed upon the lawyers whereby they can appear but they cannot plead before the District Judges or the Additional District Judges for revisional applications because the right of audience to the lawyers who appear for the parties is denied. I think, Sir, if some of the rules and if the above section be amended so that lawyers be permitted to appear before the Debt Settlement Boards and also the Special Officers and also before District Judges and Additional District Judges before whom revisional cases are heard, then these cases can be speedily disposed of.

One thing I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister is this that most of the files that had been before the Special Officers are now missing and that is only because the lawyers are not allowed to appear before the Special Officers to deal with those cases. Had the lawyers been allowed or permitted to appear before the Special Officers or the Debt Settlement Boards, then I think those officers—the Chairman and members of the Debt Settlement Boards—and also the Special Officers would have been cautious enough to see that those files were not lost. However, Sir, I think it is only due to the fact that the lawyers are not permitted to appear to deal with these cases that these things are happening.

Another thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister is this that most of the District Judges and Additional District Judges do not know Bengali. They are ignorant of the Bengali language and these applications are mostly written in Bengali. If the lawyers had been permitted to appear before the District Judges where revisional cases were being taken up, then the District Judges would have been able to understand the contents of the applications being explained by the lawyers and in that case those cases would have been very speedily disposed of.

Sir, I suggest that section 46 of the Agricultural Debtors Act and also section 40A, sub-section (3), may be so amended that lawyers should be allowed to appear. In the rules that have been framed under the Agricultural Debtors Act,—from rule 92 to rule 102—there are provisions by which lawyers are allowed to appear. If that be so, rule 46 should be amended so that lawyers may be allowed as permitted by the rules mentioned above in the case of ailing people and *purdanashin* ladies and in some other cases to represent their clients; but generally under section 46 of the Agricultural Debtors Act lawyers are not permitted to appear before the Debt Settlement Boards and Special Officers, but under another section they are allowed to appear before the appellate officers. I cannot understand this anomaly where in some cases lawyers are allowed to appear and in some cases they are not allowed to appear. If these anomalies be removed I think the speedy disposal of cases will take place. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will be attentive to all the suggestions I have just now given him and with these words I commend my motion for acceptance by the House.

MR. ABDUL HAKIM MIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at a time when the peasantry of Bengal were groaning under the oppression of the money-lenders this Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act came into existence and the Debt Settlement Boards were established and Special Officers were appointed for the management, supervision and administration of these boards. As this was a pre-war appointment fetching a salary of Rs. 125 and house allowance and fixed travelling allowance it was very much attractive to the young men and reputed lawyers and M.A.'s and B.A.'s with distinguished career accepted these appointments. It is an irony of fate that candidates who were found unsuitable by the Public Service Commission for the post of Special Officers were subsequently appointed as Lawyer Magistrate, Subdivisional Controller and District Controller fetching a salary beginning from Rs. 400 to Rs. 800. Sir, you all know that Sub-Inspectors of Schools, Sub-Inspectors of Excise and Kanungoes were promoted to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collector although I know that they were found by the Public Service Commission to be far inferior to the Special Officers promoted to the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

These appointments were made on temporary basis and still they are temporary although they have been allowed the privilege of a Sub-Deputy Collector. Up till now nothing tangible has been done for the Special Officers. At the time when they were appointed, you all know, living expenses were very cheap. Now they have enormously increased. In spite of that they are drawing the same salary. Instead of recognising the services of the Special Officers, definite harm has been done to these officers by withdrawing their fixed travelling allowance and stopping the biennial increment of Rs. 25 which they were allowed by Government. At a time when they had to make extensive and intensive touring they were allowed fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 75—I think including all the war-time allowance it was Rs. 112-8. Now these Special Officers draw travelling allowance under the Fundamental Rules. So when they had to make less tours they were given Rs. 112-8, but now when they have to tour extensively and intensively, they are not given the same travelling allowance. Then, Sir, I should like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what he is going to do with these special officers—whether they are going to be thrown out of

employment or whether they are going to be absorbed into Government service. If they are going to be absorbed, they should be given the status of Sub-Deputy Collector at least. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will kindly give an answer to the points that I have raised.

Mr. BANKUBEHARI MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of my friend, Mr. Radha Nath Das. Everybody is aware that the debtors had to dance attendance before the Debt Settlement Boards for many days. Moreover, these boards did not sit regularly for want of quorum or the absence of the Chairman. So the cases before these boards could not be disposed of and the miseries of the debtors had no ending.

Now, Sir, the boards have been abolished and the undisposed of cases are pending before the special officers. The special officers who live in subdivisional headquarters go to these respective areas and sit for a day or two to dispose of the cases. They never sit longer to allow the debtors to appear before them and get their cases settled. These undisposed of cases are piling up in their files for years together and they are very large in number. Sir, there is also a large number of cases pending before the District Judges as appeal cases. As my friend has stated, Sir, the District Judges do not know Bengali and cannot therefore independently dispose of the cases. In this connection I want to mention one fact and that is that pleaders are not allowed to appear before these judges. So the District Judges have to take the help of his officers who know Bengali. In this way, Sir, these cases are delayed. Sir, the Government had abolished the debt settlement boards but before abolishing them they should have made some arrangement for the undisposed of cases. They should have given notice to the Chairmen of the Debt Settlement Boards that they should dispose of the cases within a fixed period of time. So, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps so that the undisposed of cases which were in the waiting list for the last three or four years should be finished within a short period. With these words, Sir, I support the motion of my friend, Mr. Radha Nath Das.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Radha Nath Das has stated that there are a large number of undisposed of cases. I may inform the House that out of 36 lakhs of applications 33 lakhs have already been disposed of. So it will be found from the figures that the cases disposed of are not small. The Debt Settlement Boards have been already abolished, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee Special Officers have taken up all these pending cases. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by allowing lawyers to appear in these cases because if they are allowed to appear, it will not speed up disposal of cases. On the contrary it will delay matters. It would be in the interest of lawyers to delay cases. So Government do not think any useful purpose will be served by amending the rules and permitting the lawyers to appear in these cases.

Then Mr. Radha Nath Das has also mentioned of missing of files. If Mr. Das will bring any specific case of missing of files, certainly I will look into the matter.

Then, Sir, a complaint has been made that the District Judges do not know Bengali, and so it is difficult for the District Judges to hear appeals. Sir, this is for the first time that Government hear this complaint.

Then with regard to the point raised by Mr. Abdul Hakim, I may inform him that some of the special officers have already been appointed Sub-Deputy Collectors. Government certainly will not lose the services of these officers and if they are found competent they will be gradually absorbed in the cadre of Sub-Deputy Collector.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion of Mr. Radha Nath Das.

The motion of Mr. Radha Nath Das that the demand of Rs. 11,56,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman that a sum of Rs. 11,56,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation", was then put and agreed to.

55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions; 55A—Commutations and Pensions financed from ordinary revenues; and 83—Payment of commuted value of pensions not charged to revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,01,03,400 be granted for expenditure under the heads 55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions", "55A—Commutations of Pensions financed from ordinary revenues", and "83—Payment of commuted value of pensions".

The motion was put and agreed to.

**56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—
Government Presses.**

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 40,18,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses".

Mr. SYED MAHAMMAD AFZAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make some observations as to the state of affairs in the Bengal Government Presses. First of all, I shall speak a few words regarding the appointment of Deputy Superintendents. In 1932 the Retrenchment Committee recommended the abolition of one post of Deputy Superintendent. Accordingly, when Mr. Battersby, the then Superintendent, retired from service, one post of Deputy Superintendent was abolished and a permanent post of Assistant Superintendent was created in the same place, and to fill up this post of Assistant Superintendent an advertisement was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. I was given to understand that there were no Muslim officer in the Press at that time and the post in all fairness and justice ought to have been filled up by a Muslim. But instead of that the post was filled up temporarily in 1939 by a non-Muslim—Mr. A. K. Guha—without advertisement. While filling up the post permanently it was under the contemplation of Government to reserve it for a Muslim. But a final order was given to the effect that since six Muslims and 28 non-Muslims had applied for the post, four Muslims and ten non-Muslims were to be called for interview. Ultimately, however, three Muslims including a Reader of the Bengal Press and Mr. Rashidul Huq, a Reader of the Government of India Press, and eight non-Muslims actually appeared for the interview and a nominal theoretical examination was held by the Public Service Commission to judge the merit of the candidates and select nominees therefrom. The Finance Department asked for a list of three candidates arranged in order of preference, but the Public Service Commission sent the name of only one nominee, Mr. A. K. Guha. Then objections were raised from Muslim quarters and questions were put in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and Council to which the then Finance Minister replied that since these appointments were advertised Government had decided now to reserve one vacancy for a Muslim. Accordingly the post of first permanent Assistant Superintendent was filled up in June 1942 by a Muslim Mr. Syed Rashidul Huq, a Reader of the India Government Press, but an important post of Assistant Superintendent was created on the 5th June and offered to Mr. A. K. Guha as well as to Abu Reza and Mr. Guha who was previously in temporary service since 1939 accepted it. This post was

created only to accommodate Mr. Guha. This temporary post was converted into a permanent post on the 1st September 1942. After creation of the post of 1st permanent Assistant Superintendent Mr. Guha was appointed to it. After creation of a temporary post of Assistant Superintendent and subsequent conversion of the same into the second permanent post of Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Syed Rashidul Huq was appointed, the first post going to Mr. Guha, though in reality the former was senior. Sir, I feel the time at my disposal is very short to give a comparative list of state of affairs which is going on in the Bengal Government Press.

Designation	Pay.	Total posts.	Non Mus- lim	Muslim.
Rs				
Chief Clerk and Accountant.	250-300 ...	1	1	nil
Head Time-Keeper ...	100-200 .	1	1	nil
Head Reader ...	350-400 .	1	1	nil
Reader-in-charge, Dar- jeeling Branch Press	250-400 ...	1	1	nil
Selection Grade Readers	250-300	1	1	nil
Overseers ...	150-300 .	1	2	nil
Manager, Private Secre- tary's Press	200-250 ...	1	1	nil
Head Mechanic ...	150-200 .	1	1	nil
Head Computer ...	100-200 ...	1	1	nil
Cashier ...	100-200 .	1	1	nil
Store Keepers ...	100-150 .	2	2	nil
Readers ...	60-250 ...	35	35	nil
Assistant Time Keeper ...	60-80 .	4	4	nil
Section Holders	125-175 .	12	11	1
Assistant Section-Holders	70-98 ...	17	16	1
Upper Division Clerks ...	112-202 .	26	25	1
Computers ...	40-111 ...	8	6	2
Lower Division Clerks ...	40-100 ...	27	20	7
Revisers ...	55-100 ...	14	11	3
Lino-Operators ...	90-200 ...	33	25	6
Mano-Operators ...	90-200 ...	11	6	1
Lino type and Mono-type Mechanic and Assist- ant Mechanic	80-200 ...	5	5	nil
Compositors ...	35-150 ...	240	160	80
Forme Proof Pressmen ...	25-35 ...	11	8	3
Forme Proof Inkmen ...	20-30 ...	11	11	nil
Forme Carriers ...	20-30 ...	24	19	5
Forme Washers ...	20-30 ...	3	2	1
Coolies ...	18-20 ...	48	38	10

Duftry and peons Rs. 13-25, 17 total posts, 11 Hindus and 6 Muslims;
Darwans Rs. 13-19, 7 total posts, 7 Hindus and Muslims nil. (Cries of
"Shame, Shame" from Government benches.)

Sir, I now place before you this state of affairs which is existing in the Bengal Government Press. I like to know from Government who is responsible for this state of affairs. I think my friends opposite will not accuse me of communalism. I have stated only bare facts which have been occurring in the Government Press. I hope that the members opposite will charge both those who have made these appointments as well as those who are responsible for introducing this communal consideration in the Bengal Government Press, and I hope that the officers, be they Hindus or Muslims, who are responsible for making these appointments on a communal basis should be suitably dealt with and warned, so that such things may not recur. It is a terrible state of affairs.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government Press used to be under the administrative control of the Finance Department, but under the new set-up adopted on the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee it has now been transferred to the control of the Chief Minister's Department.

So far as the question of Mr. Rashidul Huq and Mr. Abu Reza, as mentioned by Mr. Afzal, is concerned, Mr. Rashidul Huq was given a post in the Government Press, but he left it for a better berth elsewhere. So far as Mr. Abu Reza is concerned, I know that some injustice was done to him, and when I was Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister I took up this matter but unfortunately things could not be put right. But I can inform Mr. Afzal that the wrong that was done to him has now been righted, and he has been appointed as an Assistant Superintendent. So far as the appointment of Deputy Superintendent is concerned, this is a matter for the Public Service Commission, and appointment is made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. Of course appointments to the Government Press are on the basis of technical qualifications. Muslims possessing the requisite qualifications are not available in required number. (Uproar from Government benches.) There are qualified Muslims but not in sufficient number. I may inform the House that two Muslim officers have been sent already to England for overseas training. They have been sent on study leave for training abroad and Government have under examination schemes for giving young graduates an opportunity for training at Government cost. When these schemes become mature and are put into operation, sufficient number of Muslims will then be available for holding these technical posts. So far as other grievances, *e.g.*, appointment to non-technical posts are concerned, there can be no reason for not giving these posts to Muslims. Muslims should get them according to the Communal Ratio Rules. A memorandum has been submitted to Government and it is at present under examination, and I can assure honourable members that Government will henceforth see that parity is reached in the matter of appointments to non-technical posts as early as possible and that all the grievances enumerated by Mr. Afzal are removed.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: What about clerical posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Government will see that the present inequity to Muslims so far as non-technical posts are concerned will be removed as soon as possible and it will be Government's endeavour to see that parity is reached as early as possible.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHĀ: Why could it not be done during the last 10 years?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say why it had not been done during the last ten years. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali that a sum of Rs. 40,18,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses" was then put and agreed to.

Deposits and Advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 10,87,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest Free Advances".

The motion was put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,43,37,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest".

The motion was put and agreed to.

Statement regarding number of incidents and arrests made so far in Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I promised to make a statement and the report is in my hand. This report is for 28th-29th March, 1947 up to 7 hours. Since the last report that was submitted to Government 18 incidents have been reported. Of these, two are cases of arson, one in certain police-station area and one in another police-station area. 19 cases of stabbing have been reported distributed over 4 thanas. Three cases of bomb throwing resulting in injuries to 5 people have been reported. Reports of police firing on 4 occasions have been received, 2 when bombs were thrown on police pickets, one in a particular police-station area, and one in another police-station area. On the 3rd occasion police fired when a mob belonging to a particular community assaulted a constable and on the 4th occasion in connection with a stabbing case. There was one casualty as a result of police firing. In addition, several cases of petty rioting have been reported and arrests have been made. Three dead bodies with stab wounds have been picked up. The last incident reported to Lalbazar is timed 4-15 hours. The Military are in position in 2 police-station areas including the Upper Circular Road bounding those police-stations. No reports of any incidents have been received from them up till 18 hours on the 28th March. The total number of arrests is 258. Since the midnight of 28th/29th March there have been the following incidents:

- 3 in one police-station,
- 1 in one police-station,
- 4 in one police-station,
- 3 in one police-station,
- 1 in one police-station,
- 1 in one police-station,
- 1 in one police-station,

Total 14

Incidents have taken the form of stabbing resulting in injuries to 9 persons. 3 dead bodies as already stated have been found. Police opened fire on one occasion and arrested 32 persons. There has been one case of minor rioting in a certain police-station area. The curfew has been continued for one week in the present curfew thanas. This is the latest information that I have received.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, I do not understand why military has been posted only in two thanas, namely, Beliaghata and Manicktollah areas. I live in Creek Row. Last night, Sir, there have been disturbances in almost all the places between Maulali and Surendra Nath Banerjee Road. There has been stone throwing, occasional clashes between Hindus and Muslims and both Hindus and Muslims gathered in large proportion on both sides of the streets. May I know why military has not been posted in these areas and why the police has been inactive? I saw personally that though clashes were going on the police there were doing nothing and I also saw Punjabi Muslim guards doing absolutely nothing. If they did anything at all they appeared inclined to help the Muslims.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Unfortunately I am not in charge of the portfolio of Law and Order and I cannot say why military has been posted only in two police-station areas. Perhaps these are the areas where disturbances were taking place. If Government feels the necessity of posting military in other areas I can tell the House that they will do it promptly. The police are given the duty of patrolling all the streets and other areas and I do not understand why they should be inactive. So far as the allegation of inactivity against the police is concerned I am afraid my information is otherwise. I am told that the police are working under heavy pressure; they are working for 12 to 14 hours a day and they are doing their work to the best of their ability. So I do not think that this complaint is justified. There might be one or two instances where the police might have been inactive. If any specific instance of neglect or duty is brought to the notice of Government, Government will take drastic steps.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire about the incidents that took place last night in certain places between Maulali crossing and Surendra Nath Banerjee Road up to the junction of Surendra Nath Banerjee Road and Wellesley Street? My house is located somewhere there and I saw the incidents. So I most humbly request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly enquire into the incidents that took place in this area last night. I hope military should be posted in that area, if not in other areas.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform us if the police resorted to effective firing, and if so, how is it that in the hospitals nobody is found with gunshot injuries?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: There are persons brought into the hospital suffering from gunshot injuries.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: কতকগুলো incidents সম্বন্ধে বাহ্যিক আদে ; সে সম্বন্ধে আমি কিছু বলতে চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow discussion. Individual members have individual information which they can convey to Government, but this is not the proper place to convey various incidents which took place here and there. The Leader or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition may say whatever he has got to say, but not every member.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got information of the inactivities of the police and this information has been conveyed to me by the members of the Assembly who have given that information out of their definite knowledge. Just now the Hon'ble Minister has told us that there was no question of the inactivity of the police, but we are complaining of the inactivity of the police and this information must be conveyed to the Hon'ble Minister concerned. This information, as I

have said, is based on the direct knowledge of the members. I think we have a right to convey this information to the Hon'ble Minister and then discuss it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, I do not think it will be helpful for the welfare of the City to convey these individual informations by as many as 250 members to this House and to allow them to go to the press, because an alarming situation may be created by doing that. If any particular member has got any particular information, I think the best way would be to make it over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister or any other Minister. Any information conveyed to and discussed in this House will go to the press. I do not think that will be helpful in the interests of the city in view of the unfortunate events that are taking place.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to convey this information to the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Order, so that he will be able to understand that his information that there was no inactivity of the police is not correct. Our information is that there was inactivity on the part of the police. This information has been conveyed to me by the honourable members out of their direct knowledge. If this is conveyed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister he will be able to understand that really there was inactivity of the police and he will be able to make enquiries in the matter and, if necessary, to take drastic steps.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I can assure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that if specific cases are brought to the notice of Government, they will be enquired into, but in the interests of peace and tranquillity, as Mr. Speaker has pointed out, in order to maintain the morale of the city at a very high level, it is necessary that these things should not be discussed in this House. The Hon'ble the Deputy Leader may receive those informations from the members of his party and submit a detailed list to Government which will be enquired into, and action taken by Government may, if the Deputy Leader so desires, be communicated to him.

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Can the Government give us an assurance that action will be taken when those cases will be brought before them? I mentioned about other cases to the Chief Minister that took place day before yesterday, but so far as my knowledge goes, no step has been taken towards that direction. May I know why steps have not been taken?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Our apprehension is this that Government up till now has not been sufficiently active and until and unless these things are freely discussed in this House and published in the press, Government will not be sufficiently active. That is our apprehension and therefore there should be an open discussion.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Criticisms in the press and the publication of information will help the Government. Government have lapses and their information is wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I am preventing is discussion of these particular instances, because it is advisable to keep them back from the public till the situation improves. So far as police inactivities are concerned, they have been criticised by the Deputy Leader of the Congress party today and yesterday also. That has been allowed.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজ কলিকাতার যে অবস্থা হাঁড়িয়েছে এক কথা পূর্বাশ্রমণ্ট দাবী করা। ২ এক পূর্বাশ্রমণ্ট করেন করা। যে তাঁরা Anti-League movement করে পাঠাবেন কি দু'বক্যঃ করেছিলেন এবং তাঁরা কলিকাতার.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Khan, I will not allow this sort of discussion. Please sit down.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, just a word arising out of the points—

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. I won't allow any discussion on this.

Before the House is adjourned for Monday, for the convenience of the honourable members I will announce the programme for Monday to refresh their memory:

Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Temporary Provisions Extending Bill—Consideration and passing.

Bengal Local Self-Government Association Recognition Amendment Bill, 1946, as passed by the Council—Consideration and passing.

Cattle Trespass Bengal Amendment Bill, 1946, as passed by the Council—Consideration and passing.

Bengal Dentists Amendment Bill, 1946—Introduction, consideration and passing—as passed by the Council.

Bengal Special Powers Bill, 1947—Introduction, consideration and passing.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 11-37 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 31st March, 1947, at the Assembly House, Calcutta

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 31st March, 1947, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 163 members.

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, you must have heard the sad news of the death of Begum Mohammad Ali at Bombay on the 28th of March last at the age of 61 after a short illness. She had devoted her life for the upliftment and amelioration of the conditions of women in India. At the early stages of her public life she was associated with the Congress movement. Later she joined the All-India Muslim League and became a member of the Working Committee of that organisation. She was the only woman member of the Working Committee and was also the first President of the Central Women's Committee of the All-India Muslim League. Her untiring zeal and devotion was helpful in the success of her illustrious husband, the late Maulana Mohammad Ali. During the non-co-operation movement when her husband was incarcerated, she was one of those who actively worked and organised the Khilafat movement. She accompanied her husband to the Round Table Conference in 1930. She helped him in all his political and social work throughout his long and eventful career. She also took great interest in legislative work, particularly in the cause of women and was elected a member of the U. P. Legislative Assembly. She was one of the few illustrious women of India who have devoted their lives for the service of womanhood and for the cause of India.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel it my duty to send a message of sympathy to the bereaved family. I hope members will signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen; the Secretary will take necessary steps.

Election of Members to the Board of Industries and to the Wakf Board,

Mr. SPEAKER: Members are aware that a poll was due to be held today at 3-30 p.m. for election of 2 members of the Assembly to the Board of Industries and three members to the Wakf Board. Since the Circular was issued appointing the date and time of polling Chief Whips of the Government and Congress parties agreed amongst themselves that the vacancies in the Board of Industries be filled up by Mr. Abdus Sabur Khan and Mr. Annada Prosad Chowdhury and that of the Wakf Board by Mr. Md. Ruknuddin, Mr. A. M. Abdul Hamid and Mr. Fakir Abdul Mannan. A technical defect having arisen that the date of withdrawal is over, I think no member will be prejudiced in any way if there is no polling, and accordingly, I declare that Mr. Abdus Sabur Khan and Mr. Annada Prosad Chowdhury are duly elected to the Board of Industries and Mr. Md. Ruknuddin, Mr. A. M. Abdul Hamid and Mr. Fakir Abdul Mannan to the Wakf Board.

